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FDB Translation S-24-49

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CORRECTIVE-LABOR CAMPS

MVD

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SECRETI - Sources of Information on Corrective Labor Camps *Cap.*

Sources of any kind of information on Soviet Corrective-Labor Camps (commonly called concentration camps), always have been and are inadequate. The Bolsheviks do not like to speak about them nor do they publish any material on the subject, (not even falsified); hence, any generalizations which may be made regarding the camps can never be regarded as authentic. Any data which may be given will always be approximate and of an illustrative nature. Lists of camps will always be incomplete, and those which are drawn up will never be completely free of inaccuracies and anachronisms.

In my opinion, whatever may be learned about labor camps can be obtained only from two sources:

A.- Eyewitnesses, among whom must be included people who were interned in camps and who came in contact with the camps, as those individuals who had the opportunity of closely observing the work of state security organs.



and later fell into the German rear area. Besides, during the

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German occupation, it was feasible to examine destroyed prisons and former NKVD quarters, including a number of camps located in western Russia, (true, they were quickly taken over by the Germans and used in the same unaltered conditions for war prisoners and Jews). The NKVD archives captured by the Germans probably contained much valuable information. They were ~~inac-~~cessible however and any material which was published from these documents was graphically distorted and of little use.

The endless stream of new refugees who have been pouring from the USSR, chiefly into the western zones of Germany and Austria since the end of the war, frequently bring new valuable information with them.

Former Soviet war prisoners, who were repatriated and imprisoned in special camps, "ostarbeiters", and returning German war prisoners may readily be included in this category of eyewitnesses. Both the ostarbeiters and the German PW's frequently worked together with the z/k (a common abbreviation for corrective labor camp prisoners) and lived under very similar con-



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8.- Certain indirect information may be obtained through a proper analysis of Soviet publications. Sometimes appearing in the official press is information on resettlements, the awarding of prizes to camp workers, the settlement of uninhabited regions, the magnitude of construction work, the extent of operations of mines and other enterprises which are carried out by prison labor

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and some facts on the operation of Soviet justice.

A summation of these facts makes it possible not only to gauge the political and economic significance of the corrective labor camps but boldly to attempt a reliable description of the general picture of the camps: the living conditions, the relationships among prisoners, and attitudes of the prisoners. This already is a basis for establishing the fact that the camps are a significant factor in the life of modern Russia.

II - Administration, Regime and the Purpose of Labor
Camps Known to Exist Here.

The labor camp system embraces the entire territory of the USSR. Most of the camps, however, are concentrated in the Far East, in Siberia and in the northern part of European Russia from the Urals right up to the Finnish border.

Millions of prisoners are interned in these camps. If the figure quoted by [redacted] million during the war years) is exaggerated, then the 10 million

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cited by [redacted]

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[redacted] and also by the German agents for the period 1940-1942, may be considered more accurate. According to my estimates, there were at least 6 million persons in USSR labor camps during the war. By now the figure has undoubtedly increased 30 percent.

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It is impossible to give a complete picture of the number and the distribution of camps for any specific period because the sources of information represent different periods of time and because masses of prisoners are constantly being moved from one construction project to another. Some of the prisoners who were freed from work on the Baltic-White Sea Canal in the thirties were dispatched to work on the "Severonikel'" (North Nickle) project and the extraction of the Khibiny apatites (Kola Peninsula) while others were sent to the Ukhta-Pechora region, or to do construction work on the Moscow-Volga Canal, or across Russia to work on BAM (the Baykal-Amur Railroad Trunk Line). After completing the work on the Moscow-Volga Canal, large teams of prisoners were sent to "Karlager" to work in the Karaganda Coal Basin and to construct the Kounrad Copper Combine. Only a small percentage remained in the main Dmitrov Camp. During the time of rapid construction of SUBRA (Northern-Ural Bauxite Mines) in 1942-1943, the labor furnished by "Ivdel'lag" included not only prisoners from the neighboring areas who were transferred there, but, also, according to reports, prisoners from all corners of the Soviet Union.

Transportation of prisoners is effected by the transportation section of ULAG and special MVD convoy units. Railroad cars and ships are filled to capacity. Sanitation is impossible. The doors of the cars are opened only once every 24 hours for 15 to 20 minutes; therefore individuals are forced to make use of the freight car floors. The close-stools (if it is at all possible to reach them) overflow and the same persons frequently have to stand in their own excrements for days.

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Groups of prisoners usually walk from railroad stations to ports, and sleep on the roadsides. Provisions on route are worse than at camps, since during this time the prisoners belong to no one and there is nobody to care for them. Hot food on the road is a great rarity. The distances which must be traversed on foot are so great that the prisoners can carry only a minimum of belongings (if they possessed anything in the first place) to their destination. It is assumed that death claims a large toll of prisoners on the route.

In short, the constant shiftings, which are perfectly natural when prisoners are valued as a kind of operational fund of human labor (and this is their chief economic value), blur the picture of contemporary Soviet corrective labor camps which in itself is difficult to survey.

The history of Soviet camps, with the exception of total isolation camps, must be divided into three unequal periods. The first period dates from the inception of labor camps to 1930. During this period, they were called concentration camps. They differed from Hitler's camps only in the fact that imprisonment in Soviet camps was for a limited period. Enemies of the Soviets were interned in these camps. They were merely weapons of terror and had no economic significance. At first, the camp regime was endurable, but later new prisoners were greeted with the statement: "There is no Soviet authority here, only the authority of the Solovetskiye Islands; you have not been sent here to reform but to perish!", etc. All possible forms of torture and atrocities perpetrated on the prisoners reached unprecedented proportions by 1929.

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According to the testimony of many observers, tens of thousands of prisoners, not less than 30 percent died every year.

The second period began in 1930 with the execution of Kurilko, commander of a reallocation camp on the Popov Island near Kema, and with a thorough purge of the entire administration. Broad-scale economic exploitation of prison camps was initiated. "Howdy", an expression which the prisoners had to use when greeting a member of the administration, was revoked; the word "dryna", a stick with which the prisoners were beaten, was forbidden completely. The change was abrupt. "Death camps" were transformed into "labor camps". A short time later, they were renamed "corrective labor camps".

This change coincided the imprisonment of special resettlers and peasants who had resisted collectivization. According to [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] approximately 662,000 prisoners had been interned by the middle of 1930. Work was performed in 873 "Komandirovki", or so the small labor camps were called in those years. (Subsequently they were officially renamed "lagpunkty" [Camp centers], but the word "komandirovka" remained in common usage).

[REDACTED] estimated that there were roughly 2 million prisoners in 1931-1932. According to [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] there were 5 million prisoners in 1934. Mortality declined sharply in labor camps during this period. Relations with the prisoners became totally

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humane, that is to say, as humane as can be expected under Soviet conditions. The prisoners were regarded essentially as a labor force which had to be taken care of. Prisoner specialists began to occupy leading administrative posts in labor camps. While living standards deteriorated throughout the country, the conditions in camps were better than outside for individual categories of prisoners and at any rate, better than those of the special settlers and persons exiled by the administration.

It is impossible to establish precisely the beginning of the third period. It arose out of the second period as a result of an extremely rapid growth of camps in connection with the general intensification of the bolshevist terror. The first signs of the transition appeared shortly after the execution of Kirov (1934-1935). The chief job of the camps still remained the exploitation of prisoners as before. Up to the middle of the thirties, this was called exploitation, with some consideration for the value of labor and an insurance of the minimum needs for livelihood, the gradual exploitation of prison labor later became "exploitation to death".

A reduction in the cost of maintaining a prisoner which lowered his standard of living to a below-subsistence level was paid for in lives. At the beginning of the war, the 1930-1935 epoch was remembered by the prisoners as a kind of "golden age" for labor camps. The death rate again leaped and the atrocities committed on prisoners, in connection with the inauguration of

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more severe camp regulations in 1938, once more became common.

In as much as this work is not concerned with the development of labor camps, the regime, and living conditions in camps, the description of the administration included herein relates wholly to the latter as seen in the present time.

A. Camp Administration

The highest organ of the corrective labor camp administration is the special "Main Administration of Corrective Labor Camps and Workers' Settlements" (GULAG) MVD. GULAG may be compared to a modern Soviet Ministry with regard to the nature and magnitude of its work. GULAG occupies a special place within the MVD. It hardly cooperates at all with the regular police, the border of fire guards, nor does it have anything to do with the registration of credentials of the civilian population.

Among the old workers who could honestly be called the originators and organizers of forced labor in the USSR, mention

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occupied various positions.

Fundamentally, GULAG is the same as all Soviet ministries. The following sections constitute its backbone: administration, transport, personnel, employment, special section (it is the third section, and formerly the ISCh - the Executive-Investigation Section-), planning and economic, finance, estimates and bookkeeping, statistics, tariff and norms, stakhanovite accounting, accounting and control, capital construction, supplies, cultural and educational, medical. The heads of these sections are called chiefs, but in essence they wield much less power than the heads of camp administrations who directly supervise the work on the spot.

Originally, all camps were directly subordinate to the center. At the present time, as far as I can judge, the so-called total isolation camps and large labor camps are divided into sections and camp centers ["lagpunkty"] and cover a considerable amount of territory. Such camps are located in Azerbaydzhan, along the Volga River, in the Urals, and throughout Siberia, North European Russia and a large portion of Kazakhstan.

A substantial number of separate and comparatively small camps have been turned over to the republic, oblast, kray or even city authorities in the recent years. The prisoners of these camps, usually without exception, serve short terms and are largely repatriates and inhabitants of districts which were formerly under the German occupation. I am under the impression that they are only formally registered in the card index of GULAG. Like the fate of those individuals who serve their sentences on jobs, their fate depends completely upon the oblast and city organs.

The part which the republic oblast/kray administrators of the MVD play in other labor camps and the extent to which the decisions of the MVD administrations affect the camps is not quite clear. The concentration camp zone limits obviously do not correspond with the boundaries of oblasts and republics. Judging by separate signs, the republic MVDs have the right to interfere in the activity of the camp administrations. It appears that the decisions of Moscow are systematically linked with the camp administrations and even the large camps must take these decisions into account.

Camp administrations, which are undeniably the decisive centers of the entire administrative structure of GULAG, possess the same organization generally accepted in the USSR, an organization of sections which is very similar to the central structure.

The chief of each camp usually has the following sections under his control: administration; production; the third section, which was formerly called the executive-investigation section; accounting and control (URO); finance; technical supplies; general supplies; cultural and educational; and medical.

Camp sections which are not present in every camp are organized on a small-scale following the pattern of the original sections. From an administrative point of view, they are analogous to the so-called "camp center sections". They carry out special assignments and are sometimes situated far from the section's base.

The chief production unit in the corrective labor camp system is the camp center ("lagpunkt"), (it is at the same time

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the "komandirovka" and sometimes the "distantiya"), headed by the chief of the camp center and his two assistants who are chiefs of the production and administration sections.

Only the assistant chief of the production section has charge of production work which is carried out by the "proraby" (work performers). The number of such workers depends exclusively on the nature of the project. Each one of them is in charge of one or several brigades which are headed by brigade leaders or persons in charge of ten individuals.

The assistant chief of administration is in charge of the production and administration sections to which the so-called "komandatura", persons in isolation and brigades of punished prisoners are linked. The latter, however, is not subordinate to him but to the Third Section, about which more will be said below.

The following sections are directly responsible to the camp center chief: planning and economic, bookkeeping, cultural and educational, and medical.

The Third Section with its secret sector, plays a very special part. It is the former Executive-Investigation Section. It is vested with broad powers and establishes measures of reprisal against guilty prisoners. Formerly it even had the power of carrying out death sentences, whereas today it can only double the prisoner's term. Actually, the former Executive-Investigation Section and the present

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Third Section have jurisdiction over the life and death of prisoners. There are secret collaborators (seksoty) in the section's network; the section is directly responsible to Moscow for the political condition in the camp. In its time the Executive-Investigation Section was the "GPU within the GPU" while the Third Section today is the "MGB within the MVD". The Third Section is only nominally responsible to the chief of the camp; it is accountable solely to Moscow for its work.

Strange as it may seem, the medical section has a special position in the camp administration. It is responsible for the state of the prisoners' health and consequently for the number of those unable to work and for the percentage of deaths. A prisoner is never appointed head of the medical section. The chief of this section apparently receives his instructions from Moscow as does the head of the Third Section, and he enjoys the right to contact the GULAG without first referring to the camp's chief.

Prisoners are employed in intra-camp administrations of all large northern and central Asiatic labor camps. At one time they even occupied the posts of chiefs of camp administration sections and chiefs of secondary camp centers. Since 1934, the tendency to appoint prisoners especially political prisoners to responsible offices has diminished.

It is believed that already at the beginning of the war the majority of chiefs of secondary camp centers were voluntary NKVD workers. Nevertheless, 90 percent of the administration is still composed of prisoners. The only exception is the Third Section to which prisoners have never been admitted.

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Camp regimes differ, but not too markedly to preclude the possibility of making generalizations. The most typical regimes are those found in regular camp zones of Siberia and northern Russia. The greatest differences are found in special purpose camps and in small local camps. In the following description, therefore, we should bear in mind essentially regular camps.

The conditions of work in camps are extremely rigorous. Food rations are approximately 2,000 calories. The basic food is bread, which is usually distributed irregularly, and soup containing low food value, more frequently called "balanda". Its sole value is that it is sometimes served hot.

Regular food rations and those obtained additionally from special kettles, as a kind of reward differ greatly. Increased rations depend upon production and are the most effective means of forcing prisoners to work more intensively. The stomach may well be called the focal point of GULAG's labor policy. The number of so-called "Kettles" vary with the camps. In 1931 there were only three "kettles", one for administrative and technical personnel, the second for those fulfilling the norms and brigades of punished prisoners and the third for those legards ["filons"] who could not cope with the quotas. The number of kettles designed to spur the prisoners to more intensive work soon increased.

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[redacted] speaks
of ten kettles in the Pechora Camps which existed as early
as 1941:

The first is for stekhanovites and record-breakers (for
fulfilling the assignments 150 percent and upwards).

The second is for "shock brigade workers" (for ful-
filling the assignments 110-149 percent).

The third is for heavy laborers who fulfill their as-
signments.

The fourth is for average workers and for those engaging
in heavy labor but who did not fulfill their assignments.

The fifth is for engineers and technicians, shop and
detachment heads

The sixth is for administrative and technical personnel
and office workers.

The seventh is for hospitals.

The eighth is for weak prisoners.

The ninth is for those who do not work- notably invalids,
transferred persons under investigation, etc.

The tenth is for punished prisoners - those who refuse to
work, those who have been placed in prison cells or who have
fulfilled less than 60 percent of their assignments.

More and Zvernyak are cognizant only of seven kettles:

1. Vokhr ("The Armed Guard" which is not included with the
prisoners).

2. ATP (Administrative and Technical Personnel)

3. "fourth kettle" - for those exceeding the quotas.

4. "third kettle"- for those fulfilling 81-99 percent

of the quota.

5. "second kettle" for those fulfilling 75-80 percent of the quota

6. "first kettle" for those completing the quotas under 74 percent.

7. for those who refuse to work and who are under investigation, etc.

25X1 small new camps (Kharkov, Dnepropetrovsk, Odessa) which have only two or three kettles. These camps, however must be considered out of the ordinary.

As early as before the war, the progressively impoverished diet in the camps created a situation wherein the average prisoner remained not only perpetually hungry but grew more and more feeble. If at a certain time the prisoner is unable to fulfill his quota he will continue to grow weaker and only "blat" - a transfer to some other job or some sort of illegal aid on the part of the administration- will be able to save him. Without this he will certainly perish. The same Rozanov who worked in the Ukhta-Pechora Camp Administration compiled tables from official rations which show the change in the food rations for the years 1930-1941. From what I am able to gather, the war and the postwar years introduced no improvement. Living conditions deteriorated in places but not GULAG's policy but owing to because of/the general deterioration of conditions in the country .

Prisoners engaged in heavy labor received the following rations: (In fixed calories and percentages of basic rations

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including the sale of "reward" food for money)

% of Ful- filled quota	1930		1932-1937		1938-1941	
	Fixed calories	In % of Quota	Fixed calories	In % of Quota	Fixed calories	In % of Quota
60%	3,000	85	2,000	80	1,200	60
80%	3,000	85	2,250	90	1,600	80
100%	3,500	100	2,500	100	2,000	100
125%	3,500	100	3,000	120	2,600	120
150%	3,500	100	3,500	140	3,200	160

The food rations have become quantitatively and qualitatively worse each year. The following was issued for specially heavy labor fulfilled 100 percent:

	Years		
	1930	1935	1941
rye bread in grams per day	1,300	1,000	800
plain grits	250	120	80
Staples (cream of wheat, macaroni)	100	80	60
Meat (one or the other)	100	80	60
Fish	300	160	120
Days of fast	None	5	10
Fresh vegetables in grams per day	1000	600	400
Animal fats	10	10	6
Vegetable oils	30	15	10
Sugar per month (free)	1,500	500	300
Sugar per month (for money)	-	200	200
Makhorka tobacco per month (free)	12	2	2
" " " " (for money)	None	6	4

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In the course of 12 years since 1930 the change in the weight of bread (bluntly speaking the amount of water added to flour) rose from 40 to 53 percent. The dough stuck to the fingers and nearly every one suffered from heartburn.

In place of the filling and fat codfish, herrings, Caspian roach and carp containing low food value were introduced.

Since 1934, vegetable rations included leaves and stems of sugar beets, carrots, turnips and beets.

Half of the potato ration was replaced by white and yellow turnips. Wheat and groats disappeared entirely from the diet. Cereal was cooked from cracked oats and barley.

Horse carcasses were not buried but sent to the kitchen. The extra 25 percent rations which were distributed during the main bolshevist holidays [May and] November were revoked after they were initiated in 1935. This additional food ration was not supplied from the camps' stocks but from the camps' prisoners' rations.

One month before the holidays, a gram of butter, meat, bread and grits withheld from the prisoners' regular rations in order to please them with a "holiday dinner" and was put to this deception in 1940.

Life in the camps is very monotonous. The actual amount of living space allotted per person never exceeds one square meter. In the northern zones housing consists of barracks built from freshly cut logs and the crevices are stuffed with moss. The floor is solid earth; there are

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two or three tiers of bunks usually built not from boards but from thinly sawed logs. When the camps are overcrowded which is very frequent, these barracks are filled above capacity and the prisoners are compelled to sleep on one side and turn over on the other side only on a special command. Frequently persons in logging camps and new detachments are forced to seek shelter in tents and huts.

Barracks are replaced with mud huts in the steppe regions and prisoners usually sleep on the ground. In the last few years seriously damaged city dwellings have been set aside for the use of the local labor camps. This has been accomplished only in connection with the utilization of prisoners in reconstruction of ruined cities.

Prison Clothing is always scarce and is issued only to those who have recommended themselves by systematically exceeding their quotas or because of "blat", that is by managing to become a part of the camp's elite. After the war, surplus army clothing was issued in some camps (in "Prigorlag" for example) .

Labor
/ norms are nearly always fixed . The 10-hour working day which during the war was increased to 12 hours is purely theoretical. Nonfulfillment of norms involves an increase in the working time of up to 16 hours per day and a perceptible reduction of food rations for "filons" [idlers]. For weak persons and those who are unaccustomed to it, such a regime is equivalent to a death sentence. Systematic over-fatigue and undernourishment causes prisoners to grow weak every day until they fall into the category of " approaching death" and die of emaciation.

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From 1930 to 1932/1937 convoy activities were carried out chiefly by VOKHR (The Armed Guard) which was composed of prisoners. Only the high posts were occupied by GPU -NKVD personnel. Beginning 1932-1933 prisoners were no longer recruited for the Armed Guard. The Guard gradually became an auxiliary unit of the NKVD consisting of demobilized soldiers who joined it on a voluntary basis. Recruitment on such a basis presupposes good daily allowances. (During the war, the daily allowance of each member of the Armed Guard was 2.56 rubles as compared to 2.25 rubles for the administrative and technical personnel and 2.09 for those who exceeded their norms). The Armed Guard never suffers from hunger and many members of the Armed Guard keep their families with them.

Work in the Armed Guard also cannot be regarded as very arduous. Persons who are in the Armed Guard execute their obligations conscientiously. The overwhelming majority of them do not think up ways of conspiring with the prisoners in order to improve anyone's else's position or their own lot. The chief aspiration of each member of the Armed Guard is wholly understandable. It is the desire not to lose the position acquired. This insures a conscientious fulfillment of one's office and loyalty to the top NKVD personnel.

The relationship of the Armed Guard to the mass of prisoners, as a rule is based on harsh and disdainful treatment of the prisoners. Their relationship is purely of a business-like nature centered on orders and subordination. As a rule, the Armed Guard attempts to imitate the NKVD personnel and its behavior creates a most unfavorable im-

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pression. This type of service in labor camps generally spoils people. Notwithstanding this, they fully comprehend the position and the psychology of camp prisoners, and the best of them have pity for this unfortunate perishing mass of humanity. Acts of absurd cruelty on the part of the Armed Guard are infrequent although tolerance is also rarely exhibited.

Relations of the Armed Guard with the prisoners working in the camp administration also cannot be called close. Due to the nature of its position, this group cannot be guarded in the same manner as the workers' brigades, consequently it relies very little on the Armed Guard. Therefore, business relations are limited to drawing up certain official papers and execution of orders concerning workers' brigades. Individual quarrels arise on these grounds, but mutual understanding and mutual assistance prevail, that is to say, "blat" or "tufta", in camp lingo, without which any kind of collaboration is impossible even in the free sections of the Soviet Union. The Armed Guard is small and prisoners enjoy a fairly large amount of free movement in uninhabited and poorly accessible regions. The Armed Guard is greatly reinforced in locales where escape is more easy. The number of persons serving in any one unit is therefore contingent upon the external environment.

There is an average of 1-2 armed persons per 100 prisoners in logging and mining camps of the north where the daily trips to work are made without a large escort. The number

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of guards are as high as 5-6 per 100 prisoners in camps where each brigade is escorted by a convoy. Escape is feasible if not from all then from a good half of the labor camps and successful escapes are not too infrequent. As a rule, however, they remain known only to a very few people. Those who escape never tell anyone about it, while the Armed Guard and the camp administration on their part must endeavor to conceal successful escapes in order to avoid any clashes with the higher personnel. Those who manage to escape are usually listed under the category of "approaching death". In other words they are registered as dead. It sometimes happens, true very seldom, that a new prisoner is obtained to replace the escaped person. Incidences of unsuccessful escape, on the other hand, are grossly exaggerated and the captured fugitives are punished severely. These captured fugitives usually fall under the category of "approaching death" and die owing to the intensely harsh conditions under which they attempted to escape and the usually very heavy physical punishment which ensues. The tendency to increase the Armed Guard, or perhaps to liquidate it, or at any rate to replace it with the regular MVD units in more responsible offices, was being felt after the war apparently due to the growth of anti-soviet sentiments. However, I do not have sufficient evidence to speak confidently on this issue.

The lower camp administration, as a rule, also consists of prisoners and only high posts are occupied by ranking MVD personnel. This category of personnel, which frequently includes prisoners who serve long sentences because they were harshly condemned, together with important prisoner specialists constitutes a peculiar group of the camp elite. Their living condi-

tions are much better than those of the rank and file prisoners. These people are heavily overloaded with work. They work regularly not less than 12-15 hours a day. In the event of any urgent job (drawing up reports at the end of any specific period, an epidemic, interruptions in work, etc), they work longer and bear very heavy responsibilities. These persons receive a second term for not fulfilling their obligations. In more severe cases, if the worker is not considered indispensable for the position he occupies, he is punished. This is almost equivalent to certain death.

Sanitary conditions and medical services at camps are at a very low level despite the independent authority of the medical section. No buildings are free from bedbugs or fleas, and all clothing is infested with lice. Bath houses and laundries exist in insufficient numbers and the required weekly bathing and laundering is seldom practiced. It follows that epidemics of typhus, all forms of catarrhal ailments, dysentery and venereal diseases spread rapidly due to poor food, usually unhealthy climatic conditions, inadequate clothing and very poor housing.

Nearly all prisoners who are in the medical profession are employed in their specialty. They exhibit great self-sacrifice and carry a large load. They can do very little in the virtual absence of medicaments and "hospital" beds (the word "hospital" is conditional). First aid and direct (useless) medical observation of the prisoners' health, and living quarters, is carried out by semi-literate medical technicians who have hastily studied some aspect of medicine. The death rate

in labor camps is high owing to these conditions, and scarcely 75 percent of the individuals who are placed in labor camps come out of them alive. It can be openly stated that the contingent of prisoners in camps is replaced every five years.

"After 20 days of quarantine, during which men and women lay sprawling in the bunks, medical inspection followed. [redacted] was so weak that he was not immediately detailed to work. However [redacted] had to set out for the forest with one of the brigades to work on the construction of the railroad. He was already ill in the morning and when he returned from work in the evening, after carrying rails the entire day, he was coughing up blood.

[redacted] the doctor who took his temperature, the only examination given in the camp. [redacted]

[redacted] but he managed to be present when the corpse was taken out on a stretcher made of bags to the barracks mortuary which is emptied on certain days. The bodies were buried in the forest.

" Hospitalized persons received no rest. [redacted] through a similar experience some time later when, emaciated, he contracted dysentery from bad food. There was no cabbage, and in its place milky fish soup was prepared day in and day out. Later on he was also sick with malaria.

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"There was no medicine even at the front at that time, (1944-1945), and there were so few beds that two army cots were put together and three to four persons were placed on them cross-wise. The death rate was very high. In a month and a half, hardly 40 persons out of 90 [] remained alive. He died suddenly one morning at four o'clock, but was left there to lie with the other living patients until evening. Deaths nearly always occurred in the mornings, but the doctors and orderlies needed bread, consequently deaths were never reported until the daily rations were distributed".

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Despite this, the camps are falsely reputed to be engaged in cultural and educational work. This stems from the soviet theory of corrective labor camps, which claims that these institutions are organized for reeducation of prisoners and not for punishment. This is completely divorced from reality. Nearly all camps publish wall newspapers and sometimes regular newspapers which ordinarily bear the title "Perekovka" / "Reshoeing".

There are semblances of clubs, libraries, lectures, cinemas, sport tournaments and even political meetings and labor enthusiasm. Considerably less sums of money are spent on these activities than outside of the camps. Hence the scale on which these activities are carried out is small, and these measures are barely perceptible although there is no fundamental difference in the way they are presented.

Nevertheless the effect of propaganda on prisoners is totally different than on persons who are outside of the camps. A large number of people who are not in camps to a considerable de-

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gree are susceptible to its hypnotic effects. There are no such individuals in the corrective-labor camps. This happens not only because the propaganda contradicts reality but chiefly because it is not universal or sufficiently intensive.

Torn away from the bolshevist world of illusion, the fiction of "reshoeing" [reeducation] and "competition" are too closely connected with the actual goal, that of raising the coefficient of exploitation of prisoners.

"Formerly, under the GPU, they [The educators] were selected from political prisoners without reference to the articles of the code under which they were tried. The NKVD, on the other hand, gave orders to select educators from among criminals and from among those who had been interned for a considerable period of time and who frequently could not even construct a sentence. Despite this, they could not eat the camp's bread freely. Not a single political prisoner cared to see his name on the blackboard which the educator filled out regularly every day. This [notice] is overlooked the first and the second time, but after the third time, the individual is censored in the wall newspaper and later is called down at a meeting. "Explain why you are not fulfilling your norms", they will ask. If these methods do not remedy the situation the educator is sent to the chief of the "Komandatura" (camp center?) or to the representative of the NKVD. First thing you know, the person has disap-

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peared. He has been sent to join the detachment of punished prisoners in order not to break down labor discipline. This is called ~~"propaganda in action"~~ "applied propaganda".

More accurately speaking, the function of an educator in a labor camp is not to carry out cultural-educational work, as it is claimed, but to urge ahead the laggards and to distribute scarce material benefits according to Stalin's principle of "the best to the best".

The more useful the educator is to the camp the worse he is for the prisoners, for he incites enmity and jealousy especially between the political and criminal prisoners".

It is believed that nothing more need be added to this description.

The extremely rigorous camp regime is somewhat slackened only by the wide-spread practice of "blat", also called "tufta", and other names in different camps. The word "blat" itself has been borrowed from the thieves' jargon used in Odessa and signifies protection of thieves, mutual assistance on the basis of personal trust and by-passing of existing laws and regulations. In camps, "blat" saves thousands of lives. Numerous prisoners find their way to administrative, technical and service positions with the help of "blat". The camp administration could function well without them but it is in this manner that living conditions become more bearable. Norms which are completed only 70-80 percent are listed as 100 percent completed and a few more hours are added to the completed working day. The distances which the prisoners must carry loads are increased twofold [on paper]; the hills which must be dynamited

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are magnified to mountain-size, etc. The daily rations obtained through "blat" are no better than those of the administrative and technical personnel and ration increases are listed as products which have been "consumed". A large percentage of fish caught by the prisoners is allowed to be kept by those who catch it and is distributed among friends and comrades. Prisoners working in logging camps may pick berries and mushrooms and even set traps with the help of "blat". Even secret purchasers of gold may procure this metal from labor camps by resorting to "blat". In many instances "blat" is more important than formal requirements. From the point of view of formal ethics, of course, "blat" is a sign of complete corruption. But individual ethics, which should not be measured by our standards, prevail throughout the USSR and especially in labor camps. In contradistinction to our morals, the morals of the Soviet individual are inevitably in conflict with the law. An individual who observes Soviet legal standards (especially those of the camps), frequently does it against his own conscience, whereas one who violates these standards often does a good deed.

The problem of ethics in the USSR is a unique problem. We will only mention the fact that labor camp "blat" must in no way be considered an elementary corruption. thousands of individuals owe their lives to it.

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6. The Nature of Labor Camps Known to Exist Here

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frequently does it against his own conscience, whereas one who violates these standards often does a good deed. The problem of ethics in the USSR is a unique problem. We will only mention the fact that labor camp "blat" must in no way be considered an elementary corruption.

25X1 thousands of individuals owe their lives to it.

4. The Nature of Labor Camps Known to Exist Here

Prison labor is used chiefly where environmental conditions make it difficult to employ voluntary labor as, in the north, in uninhabited regions, in forests and mines and on heavy and labor-consuming construction projects. The areas beyond the polar region are developed by prisoners. Labor camps are located beyond the Arctic Circle in the following places:

1. European Russia; the Kola Peninsula (there are camps in Murmansk, Kandalaksha and Monchegorsk); Novaya Zemlya; Franz Joseph Land; Vaygach Island; and near Vorkuta.

2. Asiatic Russia: along the lower reaches of the Yenisey and the Lena; near Verkhoyansk; along the middle and lower Kolyma; Chukotsk Peninsula; and along the Bering Straits.

It is impossible to accumulate sufficient material for a somewhat complete analysis of the prison labor and to ascertain the relative importance of slave labor in the general picture of labor in the Soviet economy. Moreover it [the labor policy] changes depending upon the over-all economic policy of the bolsheviks. Even that which we already know

on special purpose camps permits us to grasp the basic trend, namely that of repressing the majority of prisoners engaged in heavy manual labor, considered "least favored" by free labor, which requires little or no skills.

It may be strongly asserted that basically the camps are engaged in the following enterprises: mineral extraction (approximately 30 percent of all work), construction of roads canals and industrial projects (approximately 35 percent), timber procurement (approximately 15 percent) heavy industry (roughly 10 percent), agriculture, etc (remaining 10 percent).

The percentages in parenthesis of course are constantly fluctuating, but the basic types of operations which have just been listed, it seems to me, have remained the same during 20 years of practice in using forced labor in the Soviet Union. No major changes here should be expected.

It is simple to examine the known labor camps from the point of view of their subordination and the nature of their work, since we know from experience that there exist corrective-labor camp systems which are subordinate directly to GULAG; separate camps, sometimes very large ones too, which are subordinate to the local MVD administrations (republic, oblast, kray or city) ; camps which receive orders (undertaken by contract) from those organizations which are directly exploited within the MVD network.

On the basis of these classifications the concentration camps of the USSR may be divided as follows:

1. Large Concentration Camp Zones

Under this heading I include large Corrective-Labor Camps

which are directly subordinate to the central GULAG apparatus and which embrace large expanses of land. Networks of large and small camp divisions and camp centers cover the territory. Their distribution and arrangement changes radically from year to year.

The largest mass of Soviet prisoners lives and toils in camps of this sort which one may take the liberty to call "classical" camps. GULAG employs only a negligible portion of prisoners chiefly in auxiliary enterprises. It is first of all a purveyor of labor or a contractor for the existing Soviet economic organization in a given locale.

Here the prisoners are engaged in road building, construction and operation of mining enterprises, lumbering, various pioneering work necessary for the settlement of a region and mineral extraction. They are employed in the most monotonous and arduous operations which require a large amount of unskilled labor. Prisoners who happen to be admitted into a free industry are treated as voluntary workers during work. This greatly relieves their position.

Enterprises such as "Soyyzzoloto", ("All-Union Gold") "Dzhidinskiy Volfren Combine". "Suchanugol" [Suchan Coal] etc., which employ prison labor, sign contracts with GULAG. GULAG usually undertakes the responsibility of executing certain operations, felling trees in a given area, developing or building mines, etc.. A simple transfer of manpower is seldom effected, and then only for the purpose of exploiting prisoners directly in the interests of industrial enterprises. In both instances the civilian enterprises fully pay GULAG for all work carried out by the prisoners on the basis of estimates and wage rates. Therefore, as regards the formal and juridical relations, GULAG is a contractor similar to any other Soviet economic organization.

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Such mutual relations, on the one hand, preclude the possibility of interference of administration organs of the USSR national economy in GULAG operations. On the other hand, this is the chief source of personal revenue for the MVD. NKVD expenditures always appear modest in the national budget of the USSR. The sums which are handled by GULAG and which are designated "transferred from the account of 'Dal'lag', 'Kraslag', 'Ivdel'lag' and any other 'lag'(camp) are in tens if not hundreds of millions of rubles because GULAG "earns" not only money by using cheap prison labor to pay for the "rewards" distributed for exceeding the norms, but even by resorting to contract work.

In connection with the ever developing tendency of GULAG to shift from construction work to the operation of enterprises (for example, the Uhta Petroleum Combine, "Vorkutugol" Combine, and a number of "Dal'stroy" concerns it is my opinion that the difference between enterprises of other ministries which use prison labor on a large-scale and enterprises of the MVD which hire voluntary labor is being gradually effaced.

Nevertheless, the zones which the labor camp-contractors and their sections and camp centers cover must be considered large and represent the most typical form of GULAG economy. Various categories of prisoners such as political prisoners and criminals who are chiefly sentenced to not less than three years of imprisonment are sent to these zones. However, prisoners from among the local inhabitants who serve short terms are sent to this camp system, particularly when smaller camps

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under the control of the city authorities do not exist nearby.

The regular concentration camp zones encompass nearly all of Siberia and the entire northern European Russia, notably the least inhabited places. In this way they are being gradually prepared for colonization.

The task of the labor camps located in these areas consists in developing the natural resources and furnishing planned construction projects with labor. Succeeding the camps are chiefly forced settlements (special settlers and exiles) and then voluntary settlements of free population, which finally develop these almost uninhabited regions. Hence the concentration camp zones which constitute the nucleus of the entire Corrective-Labor Camp system play a very large role in the economic development of the USSR. It is because of the existence of this system that the Soviet power can dispatch a large labor force to regions subject to colonization and compel a substantial portion of people to labor frequently in lethal climatic conditions. It can be strongly stated that the development of the Soviet North, the Kola Peninsula, Karelia, the Ukhta-Pechora region, the Taymyr, Kolyma and Chukotka became possible only owing to the labor camps. It is unnecessary to point out that a large measure of economy effected in materials is paid for in human lives.

Development of these tracts of land by other means would be much more costly. Moreover it would undoubtedly proceed over a longer period of time. In as much as the task of "overtaking "

and surpassing the foremost capitalist countries" cannot be postponed, the Kremlin has no other recourse at the present time than to develop and intensify this system.

The transformation of the old GULAG into a framework for the entire Ministry of Internal Affairs and the appointment of Sergey Nikiforovich Kruglov to the ministerial post, a man who is undeniably a good business man and the greatest specialist on questions of exploitation of forced labor, must therefore be regarded as a new decisive step precisely in this direction.

Concentration camp zones are arranged in the following order (from east to west):

- Chukotka Corrective-Labor Camps (on the Chukotka Peninsula)
- Kamchatka Corrective-Labor Camps (in Kamchatka)
- North Eastern Corrective-Labor Camps ("Sevvostoklag") (northern part of Khabarovsk Krai including the famous Kolyma)
- Yakutsk Corrective-Labor Camps (Yakutsk ASSR)
- Bureya camps (abbreviated "Burlag") with headquarters in Blagoveshchensk on the Amur River with a number of affiliates in the Zeya and Bureya River basins.

The first three zones, and to a large extent the others, are exploited almost exclusively by the so-called "Dal'stroy" of the MVD. This is a peculiar organization about which more will be said below.

- Far Eastern Corrective-Labor Camps ("Dal'lag" and "Primorlag")

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with headquarters in Vladivostok embraces the entire Primorskiy Kray and part of Sakhalin Island. This zone is not exploited by "Dal'stroy"; the MVD concurrently with its own work, widely exercises the transfer of prison labor to enterprises which are subordinate to other organizations, primarily the Suchan Coal Industry and the lead and silver mines of Tetyukhe Bay. As an exception to the rule, prisoners of the Vladivostok Labor Camp are situated on the north-western outskirts of the city and are employed in the harbor and in shipbuilding enterprises. "Primorlag" sections located in the following places pertain to this group: Askol'd Island, Sakhalin Island, Camp "Nakhodka" in Suchan, and the city of Vladivostok proper. The administrative jurisdiction over the following camps is not clear: Nikolayevsk on the Amur, Polovinka, Novotomovsk and Voznesensk. Until recently Chita Oblast has not been a concentration camp zone. Perhaps this is due to strategic reasons. Separate camps were located only in the Merchinsk mining region. Based on incompletely proved data large contingents of prisoners were sent here in 1948 primarily from the Baltic States, the Ukraine and Belorussia (i.e. after the victory over Japan). There is no doubt that a small number of repatriates suspected of participation in the Vlasov movement found their way into the Merchinsk mines. A German who was released from a Soviet camp in 1948 contends that he saw chained prisoners at the Dzhandinskii Wolfram and Molybdenum Combine wearing torn German uniforms. Sewn on the ragged uniforms were white stripes on which the word "traitor" was inscribed. It is perfectly conceivable that these were former soldiers of the Flastov Army.

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Therefore there is reason to assume that in the near future Chita Oblast will become a concentration camp zone just as the neighboring Irkutsk Oblast.

At the present time, such well-known camps in Chita Oblast exist as Kladagochinsk, Yevofey Pavlovich, (sic) Dermidonovskiy, Gubarevo, Zakamenskii, Khepcheranginskii, Dzaidinskii, and Kerschinskii.

-South Siberian Corrective-Labor Camps (abbreviated "Yuznasilag") with headquarters in Irkutsk, are located throughout Irkutsk Oblast including the Buryat-Mongolian ASSR. Here the prisoners are exploited in the Cherekhovskiy Coal Basin, lumbering, ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy and the gold industry. There is reason to believe that Bodaybo, formerly the largest center of BAM ^{Baykal-Amur} Baykal-Amur Railroad Trunk Line, is becoming the headquarters of a special camp zone.

Formerly there were numerous other camps along the Baykal-Amur Railroad Trunk Line which pertained to the category of special purpose camps. Separate camps under this category have remained in existence to this very time. Their administrative ties are still nebulous. Prisoners in these camps are engaged in repairs on the railroad bed in mineral extraction and in logging operations. Formerly the administrative headquarters of these camps were located in Tayshet, Svobodnyy and Bodaybo.

- Krasnoyarsk Corrective-Labor Camps, (abbreviated "Kraslag") with headquarters in Krasnoyarsk and Kansk, cover only the southern and central part of Krasnoyarsk Kray. The entire north beginning approximately with the Arctic Circle is a zone to total isolation camps to which we will return later. "Kraslag" sections are located in this region in the Noginsk

Mines and in Turukhansk.

Byewitness in 1946 insist that soldiers who served in the von Panwit Cossack Division are in this system, 150 km from Krasnoyarsk. The Cossacks wear torn German uniforms. White stripes with the word "traitor" inscribed on them are sewn on the uniforms.

There are also several camps of former German war prisoners who were turned over to the Russians by the allies. They are nearly all dressed in torn American and English uniforms; the demobilization order has not applied to them. They are engaged in logging operations.

The mouth of the Yenisey and the adjoining regions have been included in a special system of Noril'sk Corrective-Labor Camps ("Noril'sklag") which forms a deep wedge in the area of total isolation camps and is intended to service such developing enterprises as coal mining and nonferrous metallurgy, chiefly the copper and nickel combines. - "Tomachinlag" (Tomsk-Achinsk Corrective-Labor Camps) with headquarters in Tomsk and Achinsk. We will later return to these two zones which encompass the vital industrial centers of the country.

- "Siblag" (Siberian Corrective-Labor Camps) is a system which is very analogous to Kuzhsiblag and Kraslag and is administered from Novosibirsk. This zone covers nearly the entire Novosibirsk Oblast and a section of the Altay Region. The old Narymskyy camps likewise are a part of this zone.

Kraslag and Siblag border on the total isolation zone whereas the Tobol'sk Corrective-Labor Camps, a zone of very grim camps, begin in the north-west. Here the prisoners are used exclusively by the MVD in logging and other operations.

The Karaganda Corrective-Labor Camps, (abbreviated "Karlag") with sections in Spassk, Aktyubinsk, Leninogorsk, Semipalatinsk and Petropavlovsk, like southeast of Siblag and cover the entire Karaganda Coal Basin, the Dzhezkazgan and Kounrad Copper Mines and almost all of the ore-bearing Altay region. These camps are only second in size to the famous "Kolyma" and "Vorkuta", and they have already expended thousands of lives in the construction of coal and metallurgical industries which have been undertaken here.

Prisoners of the (Northern) Ural Corrective-Labor Camps ("Sevurallag", with headquarters in Sverdlovsk, are chiefly employed in Ural mines and in heavy industry, specifically the charcoal industry and lumbering in Sverdlovsk and Chelyabinsk Oblasts.

"Ivdel'lag" (Ivdel' Corrective-Labor Camps) which services Severoural'sk aluminum exclusively and which borders on the Uktinsk camps and the Pechora Corrective-Labor Camps) "Pechorlag" lies farther north. The latter is a field of activity for such special organizations as "Sevzheldostroy" (North Railroad Construction) and the Uktinsk and Pechora Combines of the MVD. In the far north, "Ivdel'lag" borders on "Vorkutostroy" camps of the MVD which compete with "Kolyma" and "Vorkuta".

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Regular concentration camp zones once again may be found further

south. They are as follows:

"Usol'lag" with headquarters in Solikamsk; Kirov Corrective Labor Camps (Kirov Oblast); Vyatlag (along the Vyatka River) with headquarters in Volosnitsa; Unzhlag (along the Unzha River in Ivanovo and Gor'kiy Oblasts); Vetlag (along the Vetluga River, Gor'kiy Oblast); Ust'-Vym-lag; Vychegdalag ^{and} ~~and~~ Vishcheralag (southern Komi ASSR); Sevdvinlag (along the northern Dvina as far as Arkhangel'sk); Kargopol'lag; Onegalag; Belomorsk camps, formerly Soroklag; Solovki, which have long ago receded into the background; ~~and~~ camps situated on Vaygach Islands, Novoya Zemlya and Franz Joseph Land; Kandalakshinsk; Murmansk and Monchegorsk camps ^{which are} ~~primarily~~ engaged in mineral extraction; and "Yuzhlag", a small concentration camp zone with headquarters in Baku, which was created in Azerbaydzhan ~~during the war~~ chiefly for ~~railroad~~ ^{during the war} construction of railroads and aviation facilities and at the present time for the construction of heavy industry which the Five-Year Plan envisions.

2. Total Isolation Camps

The first total isolation camps in the Soviet Union were located on the Solovetskiy Islands. Major political prisoners and criminals ~~were~~ sentenced to more than 10 years were sent there without the right of receiving visitors or correspondence.

Already in the thirties the Solovetskiy Islands became too small for ~~total~~ ^{other} total isolation camps and camps were organized first in the Naryn ~~district~~ ^{district} and then ~~along the~~ at the mouth of the Ob River. At the present time, Solovki, Kolyan and Naryn must be regarded obsolete in this respect. The Solovki are small, ~~thereas~~ ^{detailed} extensive and ~~slow~~ construction ^{is} is under way at Kolyan which requires contact with the ~~centers~~ ^{headquarters central areas} and large numbers of people, therefore it is not suitable for complete isolation.

Hence large ^{and} almost uninhabited tracts of land have been set aside for total isolation camps which are bordered on the east by the lower reaches of the Lena River and on the ~~south~~ ^{the} and eastern

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half by the Arctic Circle beyond which the Noril'sk industrial region forms a deep wedge ~~with the aforementioned Noril'sk camp~~ ^{farther on}, the border swings southward and, ~~butts against the~~ ^{terminates at the} Bay separating the total isolation zone from the zones of Siblag, Tobol'lag, Sevurallag, Ivdel'lag and Pechorlag, it forms a large circle and ~~butts against~~ ^{terminates at the} Baydaratskaya Bay, following ~~approximately~~ ^{closely} the administrative borders of Yamalo-Nenets National Okrug.

Of course not all of ~~these~~ these large expanses are completely isolated from the rest of the world. However, there are large camp zones where entrance is forbidden even to the native hunters. Everything which takes place there ~~is~~ ^a shrouded in deep mystery. There is no doubt that these camps ~~hold~~ ^{are} persons ~~convicted for life~~ ^{sentenced for}. No one ~~has~~ ^{do not know of anyone} yet been successful in starting a correspondence with the prisoners ~~situated~~ ⁱⁿ these camps and I know of ~~no one~~ ^{no one who} who ever came from there. It is ~~precisely~~ ^{precisely} these camps ~~in which~~ ^{wherein} ~~approximately~~ ^{wherein} apparently more than a thousand persons are languishing, ~~which~~ and not the ~~regular~~ regular Soviet Corrective Labor Camps which must be compared with ~~the~~ Hitler's death camps. They differ ~~chiefly~~ ^{chiefly} from the regular ~~and~~ special purpose camps of the MVD and local camps ~~in that~~ ^{chiefly} people ~~located~~ in the isolation camps are not subject so much to limited exploitation dictated by the economic strategy of the bolsheviks ~~but by~~ ^{as to} direct physical extermination ~~as the German~~ ^{as which was the case with} prisoners in German concentration camps. ~~Like~~ ^{In} all other camps the MVD ~~is~~ ^{generally} motivated by ~~the~~ fulfillment of assignments at any ~~price~~ ^{price} and ~~it~~ ^{Moreover} it takes into account substantial losses of people, ~~that~~ ^{individuals must first perish} ~~that~~ ^{first} ~~expended~~ ^{expended} in total isolation camps ~~and~~ ^{and} their economic exploitation is of secondary importance.

~~In the first place,~~ ^{In the first place,} individuals suspected of concrete political activities against the Soviet authorities are sent to the total isolation camps, and secondly, major criminals. The terms of imprisonment are not ~~less~~ ^{under} than ten years but ~~the difference is purely formal~~ ^{this is a purely formal matter}. At least I know ~~of one case of a person who returned from there~~ ^{do not know} of ~~any~~ ^{any} one who returned from there.

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Only ⁱⁿ direct evidence may be obtained on the regime of these camps. People sent ~~there~~ ^{to these camps} are transported under very heavy guard (in contrast with the other camps where the ~~escort~~ ^{convoy} is very light) as far as one of the wharves on the Ob, Yenisey, Lena or ~~any~~ ^{some} other river. From ~~there~~ ^{there} on they ~~go on~~ ^{go on} foot ~~across~~ ^{the} tundra to their ~~place of~~ ^{destination.} designation. The crossings to isolation zone limits are long and ~~difficult~~ ^{difficult.} Food consists of 200-300 grams of bread ^{per} day and ~~additional~~ ^{extra} rations are scarce. The majority of prisoners discard their belongings along the road. The percentage of people who perish from overfatigue and chiefly from catarrhal and stomach ailments) on route reaches 30 percent and sometimes goes up to 50 percent.

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The only eyewitnesses ~~known~~ who returned from imprisonment in February 1948 were three very ill Austrian Nazis (two of them have already died) who ~~related~~ spoke of ~~the~~ "Molochnitsa" Concentration Camp which is apparently situated in ~~total~~ isolation zone.

"The concentration camp is located beyond the Arctic Circle in the direction of the Ural Mountains. The exact coordinates are ~~unavailable~~, unknown; It is situated in the tundra region. There are no habitats within a radius of 300 km. The camp guard is entirely made up of MVD personnel. ~~Moreover~~ ^{and there are numerous} the camp is surrounded by several rows of barbed wire. ~~There are~~ ^{surround} watch towers ~~around~~ the camp which ~~house~~ ^{contain} search lights and machine guns. The camp holds 15-20 ~~thousand~~ thousand prisoners. These persons are sentenced to life-imprisonment "without the right of correspondence". From 1943 to 1946 a ~~portion~~ ^{part} of the camp was set off for ~~German~~ ^{Nazi} war prisoners (~~in the main~~ ^{mainly} consisting of officers and the intelligentsia) who, however, were ~~placed in better~~ ^{better off} conditions than the ~~basic~~ ^{basic elements of} persons who composed the basis of the "Molochnitsa" Camp. This latter group lives in barracks which contain no beds, ~~or~~ illumination or any sanitary or other facilities for normal ~~existence~~ ^{existence}. ~~Conditions are~~ ^{them} If one adds to this the fact that ~~arctic~~ ^{arctic} nights predominate in this region it is possible to ~~imagine~~ ^{picture at least remotely} the animal-like existence of these people. Approximately 65 percent of ~~the total~~ ^{them} are

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(no one ~~knows~~ knows what kind), which is immediately shipped ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ an unknown direction. ~~Mostly~~ Roughly speaking, 30 ~~in~~ ^{perish} persons ~~die~~ every day. Russians who were in Germany, including ostarbeiters, those who participated in the Vlasov movement and a large number of former war prisoners began ~~arriving~~ ^{to arrive} in September 1945. They were placed in camps located in a special place which was surrounded by barbed wire. Contact with other prisoners ~~was~~ ^{was} strictly forbidden. ~~The treatment they~~ The treatment they received was worse than ~~with the treatment~~ the treatment accorded the other prisoners. ~~Eye~~ Eyewitnesses affirm that these unfortunate beings were led before ~~all~~ ^(that their naked bodies were) all prisoners and ~~were~~ doused with cold water until they were covered with a coat of ice."

In 1946 the German war prisoners who remained alive, chiefly engineers ~~and specialists~~ ^{experts}, were transported from "Molochnitsa" Camp to some other camp. Our eyewitnesses who were experts in machine-building were sent to assemble German equipment at the Chelyabinsk war plant and thereafter ~~released on the basis that they had contracted tuberculosis~~ ^{and soon thereafter were released on the basis that they had contracted tuberculosis}. Food rations in "Molochnitsa" Camp were as follows: ~~for breakfast~~ ^{for breakfast} tea and 200 grams of bread; ~~for lunch~~ ^{for lunch} soup for lunch and the same for supper. No fats were issued. Sugar and tobacco were issued only ~~on~~ ^{on} important holidays.

25X1 [] mentions ~~another instance of~~ another instance of an underground camp situated somewhere in the vicinity of the mouth of the Yenisey River on the sea coast.

It appears that prison labor of total isolation camps is ~~employed~~ ^{employed} used in logging and rafting timber ~~including~~ and in building new roads in uninhabited regions. It is conceivable that they are also employed in ~~extensive~~ ^{extensive} ~~considerable~~ prospecting jobs on the Taymyr Peninsula, where, according to unconfirmed sources, a new nickle combine will be constructed in the next five years.

3. Special Purpose Camps.

The ~~experience~~ ^{Special purpose} organization of ~~concentration~~ ^{concentration} camps in the USSR also dates back to the thirties. Such projects as the White Sea-Baltic

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Canal (Belbaltlag), the development of Khibinsk apatites and Kola
nickel were undertaken by prisoners. The famous BAM (Baykal-Amur
Railroad Trunk Line), the Moscow-Volga Canal and many other projects
were built by GULAG of the NKVD. Despite the fact that these projects
were built *at the cost of prisoners' lives*, *("on the prisoner's bones" as it is popularly said)* it ~~showed~~ showed the
Soviet authorities the invaluable advantage of mobilizing forced labor for
extensive ~~and~~ labor-consuming ~~operation~~ projects. These projects ~~transformed~~ transformed
the NKVD-MVD from a contractor ~~and~~ and a purveyor of ~~forced labor~~ *transformed*
manpower to a manager and operator of the projects turned over to it
for construction.

serious changes in the ~~structure of the administration of the camps~~
increased the role of the MVD in the Soviet economy and compelled it
to create a number of construction and industrial ~~not~~ organizations such
as the "Dal'stroy", the Ukhtinsk Petroleum Combine and the "Vorkutugol"
which were *principle*
Trust organized on the ~~example~~ of the usual Soviet economic organizations.

Camps working for their own organizations depend more on them
than on *similar civilian agencies* ~~civilian counterparts~~. Preserving formally the same
relationship that they maintain with the latter, *(the camps) however* they ~~are transformed~~
become ~~however~~ exclusively ~~to~~ suppliers of manpower, seldom receive individual
orders and are actually always required to accept conditions which
"their" contractor specifies. Construction and industrial MVD organiza-
tions *as a result of this become* are placed over the camps and
administer them *in accordance with* ~~according to~~ their interests, utilizing the above-mentioned
camp apparatus for this purpose.

for the sake of simplicity,
In the future *we will label such camps* ~~as follows~~
"Dal'stroy", "Sevzheldorstroy", "Vorkutugol", etc.

Corrective-Labor Camps of "Dal'stroy" MVD

The "Dal'stroy" of the MVD services the following camps:
Chukotka Corrective-Labor Camps, North-Eastern Corrective-Labor Camps, ~~Kamch~~
Kamchatka Corrective-Labor Camps and to considerable extent Yakutsk and
Burey Corrective-Labor Camps.

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The notorious "Kolyma" ~~is considered to be~~ where ¹⁰ ~~exile~~ in the thirties was considered a death sentence, was changed into a ~~concentration camp zone~~ ^{with the development of "Dal'stroy", and} ~~is believed to be~~ ^{"Kolyma" has been changed into a} concentration camp zone and the conditions therein are believed to be no more rigorous ~~than~~ in any other camp. ~~The~~ "Kolyma" was destined to become the nucleus ~~and~~ ^{forwarding base} an outpost for ~~the~~ the development of the whole far north-east ^{of} USSR.

"Kolyma", or officially "Sevvostlag", ^{consists of} a group of camps located primarily along the Kolyma River, and ~~embraces~~ ^{embraces} the central ^{forwarding} camp ~~for~~ ^{transported prisoners in Magadan} ~~for~~ ^{the Semchan transport camp and sections} of Festraya, Dres'va, Nagayevo, Srednekanskoye, Malyaksoye, Berelyakskoye, ~~Upper, Middle and Lower Kolyma, Shayvinskoye,~~ Upper, Middle and Lower Kolyma, Shayvinskoye, Talonskoye and Chay-Ur'inskoye.

^{is engaged in the} construction of a new single ^{gauge} rail-
"Dal'stroy" ~~is engaged in the construction of a new single gauge rail-~~
~~road from Komsomol'sk to Okhotsk and~~ ^{road from Komsomol'sk to Okhotsk and}
further on to Gizhiga and Penzhina, ^{which} was begun in 1940 and was interrupted during the war. It appears that the purpose of this railroad is to service large air fields which lie between the Sea of Okhotsk and Kolyma.

In addition to such operations as lumbering, road and other construction and transport, "Dal'stroy" is engaged in ~~xx~~ prospecting and extracting minerals, especially nonferrous and rare minerals. ^{the imaginary} Regions lying west of ^{this line} which ^{joins} ~~may be joined to~~ the mouth of the Yenisey and ^{with the} Ud Bay ^{in this connection (and not only in this connection)} ~~have~~ been ~~leased~~ ^{leased} to "Dal'stroy".

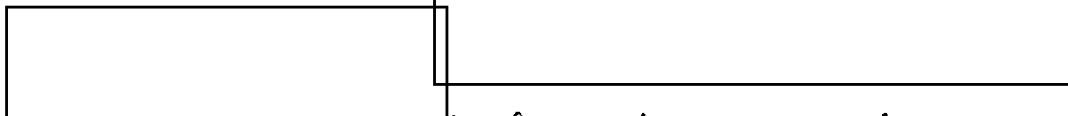
The geological-prospecting administration of "Dal'stroy" is the best equipped enterprises of this type in all of the Soviet Union. ~~The~~ V.A. Tsaregradskiy and B.N. Yerofeyev, its directors, are the foremost specialists in ~~the field of~~ geological prospecting of nonferrous metals. ^{which} ^{considerable} Prospecting ~~is~~ naturally depends on ~~free~~ movement is under the supervision of

~~SECRET~~

prisoners)

who are delegated small responsibilities, ~~chiefly~~ such as *clarifying* data on deposits which are already being exploited. The following outstanding geologists and Laureates of Stalin Prizes are working voluntarily for "Dal'stroy":

25X1



The same is true, to a large extent, as regards the
 To a considerable degree the same is true as regards *efforts are made to reserve*

construction and exploitation of ore deposits. *Efforts are made to reserve* The chief administrative posts of "Dal'stroy" for ~~selected~~ hired personnel. ~~who are overqualified~~ Beginning February 1947, ~~there~~ recruitment of such personnel was increased through placement section of the MVD (14 Gogolevskiy Boulevard, Moscow; 27 Mayakovskiy Street, Leningrad) and through personnel sections of oblast (krai, republic) ~~and~~ Administrations of the MVD in Irkutsk, Novosibirsk, Sverdlovsk, Chelyabinsk, Krasnoyarsk, Tomsk, Kirov, Molotov, Kuybyshev, Saratov, Rostov-on-the-Don, Kemerovo, Varnaul, Kiev, Alma-Ata, and Ufa. Apparently recruitment is being *widely* carried out by "Dal'stroy" to this very day and the following categories of specialists are being hired (according to advertisements in newspaper "Trud"):

~~ix~~ (Information available in previous translation of ~~summary~~ *summary of the* of Redlikh's *present treatise*)

..... *neither climatic*
 People work voluntarily for "Dal'stroy". ~~No one in the Soviet Union~~ *conditions nor personal contact with prisoners can frighten*
~~can be frightened with by climatic conditions or personal contact with anyone in the Soviet Union,~~
~~prisoners.~~ Working conditions at "Dal'stroy" *are* substantially better than in many other large enterprises. Moreover, work at "Dal'stroy" is a form of security against "purges" and other ~~unpleasant~~ unpleasant circumstances. ~~connected with the new direction of the postwar "general line" which is not amenable to anyone.~~ *many* ~~compromised~~ individuals who compromised themselves by living in ~~regions~~ occupied ~~by the~~ regions or conquered Europe, or worse still by some *"act of savagery to"* ~~the West~~, are happy to flee to the ends of the earth.

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25X1 [redacted] who ~~was~~ advanced himself
corrective-
considerably at the end of the thirties, is experimenting with ~~labor~~
labor camps by using them on a much broader basis, 25X1
~~labor camps by using them on a much broader basis, apparently with~~

the knowledge and consent [redacted]
perhaps opening
[redacted] and thereby ~~opening~~ a new and
unique stage in the existence of the Soviet North.

25X1 The use of voluntary labor in the corrective-labor camp system ~~is~~
(not to mention, of course, the personnel of the organs of state security
proper) is not new in itself. It was resorted to in Karelian and Arkhangel'sk
camps as early as the thirties, ~~from the very beginning~~ ~~as a large extent~~,
~~however, this was~~ The overwhelming majority of hired labor, ~~was~~ however,
~~is composed of~~ was former prisoners who were enjoined ~~from~~ from returning to their native
country and who preferred to remain working for the camps in which they
were formerly interned.

These people who became accustomed to working with the OGPU-NKVD
personnel ~~were~~ gradually sent from camp to camp. Thus there ~~arose~~ ~~an odd~~
special group composed of individuals who ~~served~~ ~~their sentence~~ ~~and who~~
work in the same organ which at one time repressed them - the NKVD-MVD.
~~Voluntary non-repressed employees appeared as~~ ~~gradually developed~~
~~In connection with the gradual development of the OGPU-NKVD from a security~~
organ to an organ exploiting forced labor, ~~there began to appear~~ ~~voluntary~~
~~non-repressed employees.~~ With the division of the NKVD into commissariates,
(at ~~present~~ ~~time~~ ministries), of State Security and Internal Affairs, this
was the core of the
process accelerated considerably. GULAG ~~has become~~ ~~the core of the~~
the MVD. ~~It~~ By that time it already ~~became~~ ~~an autonomous powerful~~
economic organization built on the exploitation of forced labor.

that
It can be said ~~about~~ "Dal'stroy" ~~that it~~ is "a government
within a ~~government~~ government" to a much larger extent than "Belbaltlag",
"BA" or even "Vorkutostroy". ~~This is undoubtedly~~ ~~the most powerful~~
and undeniably the most complex of all existing MVD enterprises of this
type, as far as it is possible to ~~conclude~~ ~~from the existing~~
incomplete ~~data~~ ~~from the Japanese and fleeing prisoners from the~~
Far East could conceivably ~~furnish~~ ~~the missing information~~). In contrast

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to all other ~~other~~ special purpose labor camps, "Dal'stroy" was not organized for the construction of any particular large project, but for the development of the whole large ~~region~~ virgin territory of Kolyma-Chukotka. That is why it is engaged in construction of roads, transportation, ~~the~~ ^{"Dal'stroy"} ~~the~~ ATKA (Motor Transport Column) ~~which belongs to it~~ have stimulated the growth of a ~~regular~~ ^{real} town on the shores of Kolyma, - metallurgy, mineral extraction, lumbering, fishing, and from all ~~appearances~~ ^{outward} the ~~construction of military bases~~ construction of military bases ~~of considerable magnitude.~~

"Dal'stroy" builds many projects and ~~nothing in particular.~~ ^{does not specialize in anything} Its ~~task~~ ^{task} is the development of the North. This is the novel feature for a problem of this ~~type~~ ^{magnitude} ~~this type of a problem~~ has never yet been presented to any ~~other~~ camp system. This development ~~has~~ ^{has assumed} the form of separate large projects, such as the Baykal-Amur Trunk Line and the "Severonikel'" Combine. ~~Hundreds of thousands of prisoners were~~ ^{together} Herded to work on these projects. ~~and they were~~ ^{They} were hundreds of thousands of prisoners. ~~and they were~~ ^{original projects under} dispatched to other construction projects upon completion of the ~~work~~ ^{work} in inhumane conditions, which led to immense losses of lives. A prisoner sent to "Dal'stroy" ~~has~~ ^{reason} ~~ground~~ to believe that he will remain there ~~in~~ and that he will spend his entire term and perhaps his ~~whole~~ ^{whole} life ~~developing the engaged~~ ^{original projects under} ~~work~~ jobs which have as their goal the development of ~~the territory~~ Chukotka.

Complexity and a greater degree of stability distinguish "Dal'stroy" from all other Soviet concentration camp systems.

~~Undoubtedly~~ "Dal'stroy" is undeniably the foremost, and to a large measure, an experimental enterprise of the MVD. The fact that Nikishov, engaged in the practice of the old and experienced worker of GULAG, ~~experimented with the construction~~ expanding concentration camps by ~~extensively~~ ^{extensively} ~~labor camps~~ ^{labor} ~~employing them~~ ^{employing them} ~~widely~~ ^{widely} hiring voluntary labor, deserves careful notice, ~~especially~~ ^{especially} since "Dal'stroy" already has at its disposal several hundreds of thousands of prisoners and just as many special ~~settlers~~ ^{settlers}.

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Corrective Labor Camps of "Sevzheldorstroy" MVD

Another large MVD system is the "Sevzheldorstroy". Like the "Belmorstroy", which long ago completed its assignment, it is a powerful contractor, ~~which is finishing~~ ^{It completing} the construction of the northern railroad trunk line which is absolutely necessary for the proper exploitation of the Pechora Coal Basin ~~the~~ ^{and} the Uchta Oil Fields.

As far back as before the war the Pinyut-Syvtvykar and the Vorkuta-Yugorskiy Shar railroads were completed ~~and~~ ^{was} During the war 1,200 km of the Severo (North) Pechora Railroad ~~was~~ built.

Large teams of prisoners were sent from "Sevzheldorstroy" to ~~the~~ other camps after the war, ~~in particular~~ ^{particularly} to do work on the Dzheskazgansk Copper Combine in Kazakhstan. However, construction work ~~exists~~ ^{is} in "Sevzheldorstroy" ~~is~~ ^{the} continuing to this very day. In addition to ~~the~~ ^{the} "Sevzheldorstroy" is building roads highways and roads adjoining the main railroad.

The following camps were exploited in the "Sevzheldorstroy" system (I have no new information): ~~Sevvinlag~~ ^{first of all,} with headquarters in Kotlas and a ~~series~~ ^{number} of branches in the North Dvina Basin; "Ust'-vymlag" with headquarters at Ust'-Vym, whose director G.M. Vypoloz was the right ~~hand~~ ^{hand} man of Klyuchkin, ~~head of~~ ^{head} of the "Sevzheldorstroy" administration in all ~~undertakings~~ ^{undertakings}. The following camps ~~were exploited~~ ^{also,} which were engaged in other undertakings were exploited to a ~~lesser extent~~ ^{simultaneously}: "Ukhtizhlag" which is ~~simultaneously~~ ^{simultaneously} a base for the ~~Uchta~~ ^{MVD} Petroleum Combine; "Pechorlag" engaged in coal mining; and the famous "Vorkuta" - "Vorkutalag" which is chiefly exploited by "Vorkutastroy" and "Vorkutugol'" of the MVD ~~about~~ whereof more will be said below.

~~In connection with the fact that~~ ^{since} the North-Pechora Railroad has been declared completed, exploitation of these camps ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ construction operations has ~~undoubtedly~~ ^{undoubtedly} ceased.

I.I. Klyuchkin, head of "Sevzheldorstroy", is one of the ~~largest~~ ^{outstand-} ing specialists on exploitation of prison labor in the USSR. He received the Order of the Patriotic War, first class, for exemplary ~~work~~ ^{work} construction

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work entrusted to him. It is reported that Klyuchkin is noted for his exceptional labor productivity (he ~~regularly~~ ^{regularly} ~~ordinarily~~ ^{as well as an} ~~sleeps~~ ^{less} ~~more~~ than 4-5 hours) and ~~unusual~~ ^{revealed} indifference toward the ~~his~~ personal fate of the people entrusted to him. These two characteristics ^{revealed} in the typical NKVD-MVD atmosphere of the strictest responsibility for the fulfillment of assignments together with a complete absence ² of punishment for loss of lives permitted him to establish ~~over~~ ^{climatic} more than thousands of km of roadways regardless of war difficulties and conditions of the far north.

The position of prisoners in "Sevzheldorstroy" is quite different from that of ~~them~~ prisoners in "Dal'stroy". While ^{brutally} utilizing prisoners ~~mentally~~ like ~~mechanical~~ machines, "Dal'stroy" still values the specialists ^{who} ~~which~~ are made available to it and ~~attempts to~~ endeavors to ~~make~~ create bearable living conditions. "Sevzheldorstroy" needs only slaves for elementary physical labor. Therefore differentiation ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{living} conditions of separate ~~categories of prisoners~~ prisoner categories is much less pronounced and the general regime is much stricter. An eyewitness

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describes the conditions under which prisoners labored ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ the railroad construction section of "Pechorlag" as follows:

"Our working day officially lasted 12 hours, ^{during} from 6 in the evening ~~morning~~ to 6 ~~in the~~ ^{during} in the morning for the night shift. One week we worked night shift and the next ^{and} day shift. Such was the "formal" regulation. ^{and} How were things actually?

"We were awakened at 4 o'clock. Having ^{arisen} ~~gotten up~~ we hurriedly washed ourselves; ^{or} there were no buildings ~~and~~ facilities for this. We washed ourselves outside. We either dabbed water on our faces or on the eyes alone depending on the ~~quantity of~~ ^{with} water ~~supply~~ ^{edge} and wiped ourselves either ~~on~~ the flap or the ~~end~~ ^{in barrels} of the coat. There was no water in the camp proper; it had to be shipped ^{or replaced} from somewhere ~~happened~~ ^{happened} and ~~at~~ frequently ~~we~~ we remained completely without water.

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"At approximately 5 o'clock everybody even the sick persons

"Our work ~~is~~ was extremely arduous and required superhuman efforts.

During ~~the course of~~ excavation works we frequently struck ~~rock~~ ^{hard ground} which could not be removed with ~~shovels~~ ^{hand}. Worse still was the appearance of water and ~~flood~~ ^{the flood} ing ~~in~~ of places already excavated. In both instances we were required to remain on the job over the regular hours. The camp administration ~~thereby~~ ^{accused} ~~these~~ the guilty ones ~~with~~ sabotage and threatened to send them to a discipline ~~camp~~ ^{camp} for not achieving a high output. It was extremely interested in ~~maintaining as high a production of goods as possible~~ ^{our achieving a high output}. ~~Thus it could demonstrate to the higher authorities that the camp administration and the supervision of work were in responsible hands.~~ ^{inspection by the higher authorities} ~~however, in our conditions inspection of work was impossible for~~ ^{to check the accuracy of the camp works with which we camped and worked}

"However, ~~in our conditions thus it was~~ it was truly made it possible ~~to~~ for the higher

" In place of the official 12 hours we worked 14, ~~15~~ 16 and even 18

"Since this appeal did not ~~include~~ produce the required results, ~~we were seen~~
~~the~~ we were soon thereafter informed that the working day would be increased to 15 hours."

As opposed to "Dal'stroy" and "Sevzheldorstroy", "Vorkutostroy", which exploits a great number of zones operates on a principle of undivided ^{rule} ~~lordship~~ an area in which over ~~xxxxxx~~ delineated for its use ~~xxxxxx~~ the prisoners ~~the~~ are engaged in no other enterprises than those undertaken by "Vorkutostroy".

Already before the war, ~~"Sevzhelstroy"~~ ^{force applied in} labor was put into the construction of Vorkuta city, the Vorkuta-Yugorskiy Railroad ^{extending} for shipping mined coal to the sea and a narrow-gage railway as far as the Usa River along which coal is shipped to Pechora. The Main Administration of "Vorkutostroy" (it is also the "Novyy Ugol'" - New Coal-) and "Vorkutugol'" a powerful MVD coal combine established during the war, are located in Vorkuta. The new mines of "Vorkutugol'" were put into operation as early as 1938.

During the construction of "Vorkutugol", ^{conditions at just as at "Kolyma were} "Vorkuta" ^{was} considered ^{harsh, severe.} very ~~difficult~~ ^{camp like "Kolyma"}. Now that the ^{high} ~~high~~-grade coal is ^{being shipped} ~~moving~~ south ^{by railroad} ~~along the railroad~~, those times must be regarded as ^{part} ~~an~~ Mining is already being ^{undertaken} ~~carried out~~ by the special settlers, ~~and~~ the remaining prisoners, with the exception of several ~~brigades~~ ^{camps} for punished prisoners - ^{have been circulating,} "traitors of the motherland", about whom terrifying reports ~~are made~~ ^{have} been placed in more endurable conditions. /

Like "Dal'stroy", "Vorkutugol" is attracting voluntary labor ~~and~~ on a wide-scale. As opposed to "Dal'stroy", trade union and party work, cultural education, socialist ~~a~~competition and other attributes of socialism are widely practiced here. It is extremely interesting to note that the tendency

the stakhanovite movement to expand ~~socialist competition~~ even among prisoners is being keenly felt. of course prisoners There is no doubt ~~that~~ the enthusiasm displayed among ~~them~~ is not genuine. development The ~~expansion~~ of the stakhanovite movement, however, ~~portends~~ *increase in the working norms* as they are a further ~~stakhanovite working norm~~ which are unbearable ~~backbreaking~~ for the harassed and frequently starved persons.

The initiators of this trend are the voluntary ~~worker~~ employees of "Vorkutugol" Ya.P. Komkov, head of Mine No 4; Rakhiyel', a former ~~prisoner~~ *prisoner* of the same mine; and Ivan Aleksandrovich Zagorskikh, famous miner and Cavalier of the Order of Lenin.

The number of ~~stakhanovites~~ at "Vorkutugol" *rapidly* increasing due to the utilization of excellent equipment ~~for~~ which GULAG was able to procure for its ~~new~~ *model* offspring. If the increased norms at "Vorkutugol" are adopted by the neighboring "Pechorlag", ~~which is much more poorly equipped~~ *to happen,* which is much more poorly equipped, and which is very likely the conditions under which prisoners live in the latter camp will become ~~desperate~~ *hopeless.*

Pechora Corrective-Labor Camps

Directly south of Vorkuta ~~is~~ *there* situated the so-called "Pechorlag", which, in addition to working for "Sevzheldorstroy", is engaged in exploitation and further development of the ~~exploitation of coal and future construction of~~ the southern part of the Pechora coal deposits.

Coal seams which are ~~poorer~~ *poorer* and not as conveniently ~~located~~ *situated* located

for exploitation ~~coal seams~~ are located here (in the vicinity of Vorkuta they ~~are~~ *appear on* frequently the surface), as a result of which ~~exploitation~~ *timely* "Pechorlag" prisoners ~~are~~ *are* exploited crudely

~~in extracting coal by primitive hand methods.~~

The former punishing camp and the present privileged ~~in "Pechora"~~ *while at* "Vorkuta" is loathed ~~intensely~~ *intensely* which is ~~the same~~ *of course* "Vorkuta" ~~despises~~ *despises* Pechora. This enmity ~~of course~~ *which involves*

naturally limited only to the administration and by no means the broad masses of concentration camp prisoners is basically well-founded. "Vorkuta" received the lion's share of the 420 million rubles invested in these places ~~for~~ *(the 1110 percent)* in the past ten years, whereas "Pechorlag" was responsible for ~~an~~ *an* increase in coal extraction in 1940-1945.

~~Conditions in Pechora~~

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Conditions in "Pechorlag" are ^{grim.} ~~and~~ prisoners are used entirely in the MVD system; ^{they} ~~and~~ do not possess even those ^{minor} ~~negligible~~ privileges which are ^{largely} associated with the headquarters of "Dal'stroy" and "Vorkuta". ^{also} They ~~also~~ do not ~~write~~ see the ~~advantages of free labor~~ positive ^{aspects} ^{"free"} ~~aspects~~ of work in ~~free~~ industries ~~with freedom~~. ^{compared} [those not under the MVD control].

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Ukhta Corrective-Labor Camps

The MVD Ukhta Petroleum Combine is a most curious enterprise. This concern extracts and processes petroleum and waters containing radium (Oilfield No 1 and No 2). It is ^{enterprise in this particular system} very secret because radium is derived ~~from~~ from petroleum waters ~~in this particular system~~ and other chemical operations ^{which are of significant to the country's defense} ~~are~~ conducted here, likewise. Its administrative personnel ^{is} ~~are~~ located in Ust'-Ukhta, and S.M. Burdakov, its ^{director} ~~head~~, was awarded the first ^{class} Order of the Patriotic War ^{on 2/8/46}. In contrast to Klyuchkin, Burdakov sometimes likes to demonstrate his generosity to the prisoners, which, by the way, ~~is done in a sporadic fashion.~~ ^{is} ~~is done in a sporadic fashion.~~

Surrounded with "attention and care", "Ukhta" is beginning ~~to~~ to play a more and more important role in the system of Soviet ~~of~~ scientific-research institutions. Excellently equipped chemistry laboratories ^{have been established} ~~have been~~ in the past few years, ^{in which} wherein prisoners and sometimes eminent chemists are ^{fortunate} ~~likely~~ to occupy the positions of ~~technical~~ technicians while hired supervisors rapidly make ^{scientific} ~~at their~~ careers for themselves on the labor and knowledge of their subordinates. The cooperation of Ukhta laboratories ^{with} those of Moscow, (especially with the Ministry of Chemical Industry and its outstanding institute No 42), ^{apparently} ~~is~~ carried out ~~apparently~~ chiefly through the ~~work~~ P.I. Kuz'minov, Major of State Security, while at the same time direct supervision is in the hands of F.A. Toronov and M.D. Krashennikov, recipients of Stalin Prizes in late June 1947.

The Ukhta Combine ^{is not lagging} ~~does not lag~~ behind the plan for the introduction of more improved methods of exploiting manpower. ^{The} ~~Stakhanovite~~ movement prevails here as ^{It} ~~at~~ at "Vorkutugol", ~~which~~ was initiated by Ignat'y Andreyevich

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combine's) Karasev, chief of the political section, ~~stakhanovites~~ ^{for example, An example of one is,} The combine has here ~~stakhanovites~~, ~~such as~~ ^{like the} drillier foreman Georgiy Semenovitch Kochergin, Cavalier of the Order of Lenin, just ~~such~~ ^{like the} "free" enterprises.

The combine is operated chiefly by special settlers and not by prisoners. ^{As a result of which} the majority of prisoners have been transferred to work in coal mines. That ~~group~~ ^{group} of prisoners which ~~has~~ ^{continues} to operate the combine despite the ^{is} "advanced" ~~methods~~ ^{operational methods} ~~is~~ ^{is} no better off than prisoners in other camps, although their lot is not ~~as~~ ^{as} bad as that of the prisoners in the neighboring "Pechorlag" and "Ust'vymlag".

In general ~~It is known~~ during the war years prisoners of Komi ASSR ~~prisoners~~ ^{developed} carried out large projects (~~construction of~~ North-Pechora Railroad Trunk Line, ~~development of~~ petroleum and coal fields, ~~lumbering~~). It must be assumed that L.S. Buyanov, Minister of Internal Affairs of Komi ASSR, who was replaced in 1946 played a large role in this. Having rendered great services during the war, Buyanov ~~demonstrated~~ ^{exhibited} too much independence with respect to the All-Union MVD, and his replacement, despite the fact that ~~he~~ ^{he} was awarded the Order of the Patriotic War soon thereafter, must be regarded as "a history of Marshall Zhukov in miniature."

4. Camps Situated in Industrial Areas

Camps designed to service heavy industry occupy a unique position. ^{just} Here the MVD is ~~only~~ the owner of the labor force and merely administers the camps, although it frequently tends to interfere in the affairs of enterprises which it services. The overwhelming majority of prisoners ~~is~~ turned over for exploitation to other concerns. ~~and~~ The prisoners ^{average} are assigned the usual norms prevalent in the Soviet Union, ^{however they} but do not receive ~~the~~ ^{wages} ~~the~~ ^{they} ~~live in~~ ^a ~~severe~~ ^{camp regime} ~~conditions~~ ^{which} ~~borderline starvation~~. The camp ~~administration~~ ^{the prisoners} receives the wages and issues ~~only~~ ^{only} an insignificant portion ^{of the wage} ~~to the~~ ^{the} prisoners ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ form of a "bonus".

Below are ~~The~~ typical industrial-camp zones ~~are mentioned below.~~

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"Tomachinlag" (Tomsk-Achinsk Camps) ~~in~~ⁱⁿ prisoners are engaged in nearly all Kuzbass enterprises.

Camps ~~in~~ⁱⁿ which conditions are very severe are also prevalent in this zone. Eyewitnesses, ~~who apparently give highly colored accounts,~~ ~~relate~~^{relate} the following:

Here a) We found ourselves in large camp ~~entirely~~^{entirely} consisting of ~~voluntary~~ repatriates as ourselves. The camp ~~entirely~~^{entirely} contained ~~immense~~^{barracks which seemed to be built recently and which were} ~~surrounded~~^{surrounded} with barbed wire ~~and~~^{illuminated} machine-gun towers at the corners. At night the wire was ~~lit~~^{lit} by search lights, and ~~pairs~~^{their} of patrol guards with dogs made ~~the~~^{the} rounds. In addition to guards stationed ~~in the towers~~^{in the towers}. Work in the mines was ~~12 hours~~^{long} and surface jobs ~~lasted~~^{lasted} 16 hours. Food consisted of 250 kg of bread, a half liter ^{or} of "watery soup" and boiled water twice a day. The barracks were not heated and were made of freshly cut logs. ~~Twigs were used in place of~~^{Twigs were used in place of} ~~the~~^{the} ~~roof~~^{roof} and ~~four~~^{there were} ~~rows~~^{decks} of bunks ~~inside~~^{inside} in which ~~hundreds~~^{slept} of people huddled ~~and~~^{and} closely together without mattresses, straw or blankets. Every morning after the healthy ~~ones~~^{individuals} were dispatched to work, ~~hundreds~~^{several} of corpses were ~~taken out~~^{removed}. These people died during the night and their bodies were thrown into pits which were dug beforehand, ~~at~~^{at} the ~~same~~^{same} time that the camp was built. Hundreds of "volunteers" arrived daily. Despite the fact that the figure registered ~~at~~^{at} the camp's entrance was in the hundred thousands, ~~apparently~~^{apparently} no one knew ~~this~~^{exact} ~~precise~~^{precise} number of prisoners ~~present~~^{present}.

"We were able to escape in the night during a fierce storm, ~~which was~~^{which was} ~~accompanied~~^{accompanied} by ~~pouring rain~~^{pouring rain} ~~which~~^{which} the dogs remained ~~hidden~~^{hidden} and ~~which~~^{which} Even the search lights could not penetrate ~~the dense rain~~^{the dense rain}."

"Noril'sklag" ~~was constructed and now services them~~^{had built and now services them} the Noril'sk coal mines and the copper and nickle combine ~~and now services them~~^{and now services them}. "Ivdell'lag" ~~was constructed in 1942 and at the present time services~~^{built in 1942 and at the present time services} the Severoural'sk bauxite mines ~~in 1942 and now services them~~^{in 1942 and now services them}.

"Osobstory" camps are scattered all along the Volga from Syzran' to Stalingrad and ~~along~~^{border} the "Bezymenlag", "Kuybyshevlag" and "Tenniklag" systems directly ~~on~~^{on} the north.

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After the evacuation of Germans from the Volga River ~~xxxxxx~~ area in 1941, the principal center of this camp system became the territory of this republic which beginning 1944 was gradually transformed into a ^{massive} concentration camp. Villages serve as ~~the~~ headquarters for individual camp centers. They are surrounded with barbed wire, ~~and~~ machine gun nests and other strong guard installations peculiar to ~~xxxxxxx~~ these places.

After the war the majority of prisoners in "Osobstroy" camps ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{who had resided in} ~~was~~ composed of "socially dangerous citizens" ~~or~~ formerly occupied regions, former prisoners of war and ostarbeiters. Prison labor is slowly ~~being~~ converting this region into an industrial area. ~~composed of~~ Industrial ^{establishments} ~~enterprises~~ ~~which were~~ brought over from Germany ^{are being} ~~installed~~ assembled and installed.

Later, ~~on~~ "Osobstroy" participated in the reconstruction of Stalingrad, and ~~then~~ in the installation of the Saratov-Moscow pipeline. ~~xxxxxxx~~ A camp holding 400,000 prisoners was established near Saratov for this operation. In connection with the termination of this job in autumn ~~xxxxxx~~ 1947, ^{it is to be} ~~it must be~~ ~~assumed~~ that the number of ~~xxxxxxx~~ inmates in "Osobstroy" camps has been sharply reduced. However, I do not possess any concrete evidence to this effect.

Notwithstanding the fact that the "Azerbaydzhan" Corrective-Labor Camps or "Yuzhlag" are not in contact with the other masses of continuous concentration camp zones, they still fall under the category of industrial camps because the prisoners are employed in the development of the Baku oil region, (removing the cement from the old oilwells which were cemented when the Germans were threatening the region, and drilling new wells), in the Sumagay metallurgy and in other projects.

~~xxxxxxx~~ The last eyewitness (German war prisoner) from Yevlakh in Azerbaydzhan relates that 3,000 Soviet prisoners arrived in November 1947 to help construct a dam on the Kura River (which was designated "Forbidden Area" No 1. They were all men from the ages of 16 to 50. They are fed extraordinarily well for prisoners. If the daily norms are fulfilled they receive 600 grams of bread, a litre of "watery soup" in the morning and evening and $\frac{1}{2}$ litre of soup and $\frac{1}{3}$ litre of cereal for supper. The guards are composed of NKVD personnel. Despite this, the witness contends that the prisoners

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they are
are always worried. It seems that ~~the work is done~~ strongly anti-bolshevik.

They break shovels and picks in the course of their work. There were
occurred

Disturbances in January 1948, (apparently attempts to organize escapes),
accompanied by

~~with~~ attacks on the guards. Fresh MVD units arrived when the alarm was sent and

Several persons were ~~not~~ executed before everybody. The eyewitness ~~could not~~
to tell of

was unable ~~to describe~~ any other repressive measures.

Other evidence indicates that have been

~~According to other evidence~~ many prisoners ~~are being~~ sent to the

Transcaucasus since the war ended. Trains with search lights have also

been dispatched. The prisoners are frequently chained in pairs. Despite

this, escapes on route are not an infrequent occurrence.
include

I do not ~~list~~ the numerous Donbass and Fridneprov'ye camps ~~with~~ *Donets River region*

the industrial region camps, ~~since~~ *because* for reasons unknown to me, they are

not incorporated in large administrative systems. Not a single ~~one~~
such a term as

eyewitness from these places ever used ~~any of the terms~~ "Donlag" or

"Dneprlag".

The extremely varied work carried out *in these areas* ~~in these locales~~ by forced labor
may therefore be attributed to local camps.

E. Local Camps

It is absolutely impossible to obtain a complete list of small corrective-
labor camps in the Soviet Union since they ~~are~~ appear everywhere, *where*
a need for them arises and disappear when they are no longer ~~needed~~ required.

They ~~are~~ usually *come* under the control of the oblast(kray) MVD organs, ~~and not~~

~~the central MVD organs~~ or directly under the city sections of this ministry,

but not under the central MVD organs. They ~~include~~ *include* small units (for several

hundreds of persons) as well as large camps for several thousands of
individuals.

Usually prisoners from adjacent regions who receive short-term sentences
(up to 5 year) for violating ~~working orders~~ laws relating to work and

daily *life* ~~living~~, for theft of ~~public~~ *public* property, for arriving late at work, etc,

are sent to these camps. At the present time these camps hold ~~persons~~ *persons*

sent there on suspicion. These camps are now filled with "inimical elements"

deported from ~~Europe~~ Europe, repatriated Soviet citizens, ~~persons~~ individuals

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from newly appropriated republics and ~~these of formerly occupied regions~~
~~from~~ formerly occupied regions. From a juridical point of view these
 camps have become analogous to German concentration camps. Fifty percent
 of the prisoners ~~with the same status as those with the same~~ who have not been
 (and ~~who have not even~~ been accused of anything specific)
 officially declared guilty find themselves in these camps. They do not
 know how long they are to be remained imprisoned. Many of them have been
 told in the course of interrogations that they have not been "arrested"
 but merely "detained". In the eyes of the prisoners they are ^{being} taken in
 for no reason at all, and if they do not perish from hunger, cold and
 disease they may be released "just like that" without ~~giving the~~
 receiving any ~~classification~~ ^{stating} credentials ~~which state~~ ^{mere} that they ~~individual~~
~~was in a camp~~ interned in a camp.

A novel category of prisoners emerged after the war. These
~~these~~ are "voluntary repatriates who voluntarily signed up for
 construction work without first stopping off at their homes." The
 duration of this
~~period of their work~~ "voluntary" work is fixed from two to five years.
 Some of these people find themselves in semifree conditions and others ~~too~~
 primarily in local concentration camps.

With the exception of camps located in the industrial Dnepr River region and
 the Donbass, until the middle of 1945 there were few camps in areas which were
 formerly under German occupation. Later their number began to grow ~~uncontrollably~~ ^{uncontrollably}

~~uncontrollably~~ and it may be frankly stated that each center which is ~~now~~
 being reconstructed has at its disposal, ^{in addition to} ~~besides~~ the different free and
 semifree camps for ~~involuntarily~~ ^{conscripted} persons, at least one
 real concentration camp filled to capacity with Latvians, Estonians, Poles,
 Germans, Galicians, Bulgarians, Yugoslavians, etc. Frequently demobilized
 Soviet Army soldiers find their way into these camps.

The regime in these camps is ^{quite} ~~very~~ varied. There are camps where prisoners
 are fed well and the labor is not extraordinarily arduous; There are camps
 in which prisoners are ~~rapidly~~ ^{two} classified "approaching death" in ~~two~~ or three
 months. The official bread ration, ~~in~~ which is the basic food, is 600 grams,
 but it is not issued everywhere. In general, conditions in these camps may

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~~be~~ ^{those prevailing in} ~~honestly~~ compared with ~~the regime exercised in German War Detention Camps,~~ camps containing German PWs, which ~~are~~ ^{are} well-known here. ~~It must be taken into account~~ ^{should be taken into consideration} that, as a rule, the Germans ~~were~~ ^{are} in a somewhat better position as ~~regards~~ ^{regards} the treatment they receive from the [Soviet] authorities and nourishment.

Morally, and to a considerable measure physically, the conditions ~~of the prisoners in city camps~~ under which the prisoners live in city camps are relieved by ^{sympathetic} ~~compassionate~~ treatment from the ~~great~~ ^{great} civilian population. The official ~~hostile~~ ^{hostile} and disdainful treatment of ~~the~~ repatriates which to a large extent shared by the is ~~considerably different~~ ^{is} Soviet occupation armies is replaced by deep pity in the Russian hinterland. All eyewitness ~~agree~~ ^{perceive} that the "free population" unanimously ~~see~~ ^{perceive} the prisoners (including the German war prisoners) first of all as exhausted and suffering ~~individuals~~ ^{individuals} people and, notwithstanding the ~~general want,~~ ^{general want,} endeavors to sneak ~~them~~ ^{to} cigarettes or pieces of bread ~~at every available opportunity~~ ^{at every available opportunity}.

In some local camps ~~the~~ prisoners are more closely guarded than in the northern concentration camps (~~the~~ ^{several} rows of barbed wire and blood-hounds are easily ~~perceptible~~ ^{visible}). This ~~occurs~~ ^{however,} ~~not~~ only because these camps are situated in densely populated places where ~~escape~~ concealment is easy if a prisoner succeeds in escaping.

on the other hand, In other local camps, ~~however,~~ the guard is small and ~~its presence is~~ ^{its presence is} ~~more formal.~~ ^{more formal.} In four camps located in the vicinity of Gor'kiy, where the former war prisoners are exploited in ~~logging~~ ^{logging} operations and in the construction of a highway, the guards are composed of the regular militia and not ~~the~~ ^{the} Armed Guard or MVD soldiers. Usually ~~one~~ ^{one} guard escorts a party of 20-30 persons.

It can be stated without reservation that only a segment of the local camps are concentration camps in the true ~~sense~~ ^{sense} of the word. The others bear a resemblance to ~~campes for temporary~~ ^{campes for temporary} ~~concentration~~ ^{concentration} labor conscription ~~for~~ ^{for} some remaining group of workers, or ~~formerly sparse~~ ^{formerly sparse} camps for banished persons (from Europe) ~~which are~~ ^{which are} not guarded. The position of the prisoners is more like ~~that~~ ^{that} in these camps ~~approaches~~ ^{approaches} the position of all types of special settlers and ~~banished~~ ^{banished} exiled individuals.

The system of small local camps began to develop on a ~~wide~~ ^{large} scale only

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after the war and is currently still in ~~the~~ a state of flux. Therefore it is not surprising that the prisoners in these camps are left to the arbitrary will of the supervisory personnel, among which may be found persons of questionable ~~character~~ ^{character} ~~reliability~~.

Medical service is usually average, ~~of course~~ if one does not take into account the chronic shortages of medicaments and hospital cots. However, ~~medical~~ evidence is falsified to a much larger extent than in other parts of the USSR. (Doctors are not permitted ~~to~~ to diagnose cases as hunger swellings typhoid illnesses, etc). Cultural work is manifested in ~~sporadic~~ occasional reports on the international situation or on ~~the~~ soviet construction, which by the way, do not impress the prisoners in any way, and wall newspapers which are published somewhere else.

~~important~~ important local camps, for ~~as it has already been~~ ^{as it has already been} simply ~~it is~~ it is hopeless to give a fairly complete list.

These camps ~~cover~~ ^{which was} densely cover the entire territory formerly occupied by the Germans. ~~and the~~ Prisoners interned in these camps are primarily engaged in ~~the~~ infestation of ruined cities. Camps in the industrial regions of Donbass and Krivoy Rog are excepted ^{here} prisoners are engaged in mining. (Included in this group are camps of Shakhtinsk, Voroshilovgrad, Stalino, Mariupol', Kramatorsk, ~~as well as~~ ^{and} Zaporozh'ye, Dnepropetrovsk, Nikopol' and Krivoy Rog).

Following is an incomplete list of ~~such~~ ^{such} camps embracing formerly German occupied territory:

1. Leningrad with affiliates at Burovichi and Selizharov coal fields,
2. Polotsk, 3. Alesha, 4. Minsk, 5. Mogilev, 6. Orshan, 7. Novgorod-Volyn', 8. Ovruch, 9. Korosten', 10. Gomel', 11. Brakhino,
12. Koganovich, 13. Kiev, 14. Zhitomir (camp for exiles), 19. Odessa (a great deal of repatriates from Europe were sent here), 20. Kherson,
21. Ingulets, 22. Kremenchug, 23. Krivoy Rog, 24. Zaporozh'ye and Dnepropetrovsk (chiefly foreigners from the Balkans have been placed here), 25. Sumy, 26. Kharkov, 27. Novoy Sokol, 28. Izyum, 29. Kramatorsk,
30. Voronezh, 32. Aleksandrovka, 33. Mariupol', 34. Stalino, 35. ~~Kharkov~~

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35. Voroshilovgrad, 36. Shakhty, 37. Novosibirsk, 38. Tuapse, 39. Nal'chik

The territory of the Soviet Union which was not under German occupation and which does not enter into the concentration camp zones is covered with a light network of concentration camps. ^{This} which can be easily explained. The majority of citizens who are sentenced to short-terms of forced labor remain living at home. Their punishment consists in the fact that ^{bearing} they bear a full work-load at the place of their employment without receiving ^{any} remuneration, ^{which means that they} for it must be supported by their families. large

Nevertheless there are ~~very~~ several very ~~large~~ camps ~~located~~ located in these areas (on the average they hold 10,000 prisoners): 1. Vladimir 2. Ryazan 3. Rybinsk and Dmitrov (Volgastroy), 4. Chkalovsk 5. Budenovo, ~~for~~ (supplying the metallurgical industry of the Southern Urals), ^(Stalinabad) 6. Urgents 7. Tashkent, 8. Frunze, 9. Krupskiy, 10. Prorvinskiy, 11. ~~Stalinabad~~ and others.

III. Replacements in Labor Camps. Composition of Prisoners Based on the Nature of their "Guilt" Before the Soviet State. ^{Cap - 7p}

technique of planning repressive measures in the USSR. But the fact that planning exists need not be doubted. It must be assumed that the "general line" on this question is worked out in the Politburo, on the basis of ~~reports~~ summary reports coming in from the ^{MGB.} ~~MGB.~~ It is then ^{reviewed} ~~gone over~~ by the MGB and is returned to the Politburo for approval.

Probably the opinion of the Gosplan and USSR economic organs is not asked, with the exception perhaps of GULAG. ^(guilty)

Each one of the purges in the USSR ^{was} ~~had~~ ^{of a perfectly} ~~perfectly~~ clear political or economic-political nature. Neither the purges of secondary or higher schools, ^{squandering} ~~not~~ the campaign against ~~theft~~ of kolkhoz property for the theft of socialist property, nor Kaganovich's railroad reform, nor the struggle against infractions of labor codes ^{the present struggle against} ~~nor~~ ^{obsequious attitude} ~~subservience~~ ^{toward servility to the West} ~~in the west~~ can be regarded as ~~pretext~~ excuses for recruitment of labor. ^{Believe that Stalin is incorrect in his views} ~~According to the book~~ (in the German text book Arbeiter Oder Ausgebeutete) on the deportation of antisoviet elements from eastern Poland, ^{from} the Baltic States

~~From~~ ~~the~~ ~~territory~~ ~~of~~ ~~Beessarabia~~ and later from the liquidated autonomous republics, ~~he claims~~ ~~this measure~~ was politically absurd. ~~which he claims~~ ~~has no political basis~~ These deportations may readily be regarded as economically senseless, for the heavy economic dislocations engendered by ~~the~~ ~~deportations~~ in the aforementioned territories and the large expenses ~~are~~ ~~hardly~~ compensated by involved in the operation ~~hardly~~ ~~because~~ the benefits derived from the utilization of this unskilled labor, 90 percent of which is today dead.

~~From~~ From a political point of view they had a perfectly clear and ~~notably~~ ~~specific~~ of the populations, ~~achievable~~ attainable goal: ~~the~~ ~~liquidation~~ of elements considered dangerous by the bolsheviks and the terrorization of the remaining population.

Apparently the ~~mass~~ ~~arrests~~ ~~carried out~~ ~~by~~ by the bolshevik organs of the state security were dictated by the following considerations:

- majority of the
1. The population of the USSR is hostile to the existing regime, ~~it~~ therefore it must be kept in a permanent fear.
2. The population of the USSR is terrorized to such a degree that no ~~any~~ ~~one~~ dares to ~~to~~ ~~speak~~ ~~or~~ ~~act~~ ~~against~~ the existing regime. ~~There~~ ~~are~~ ~~so~~ ~~few~~ ~~actual~~ ~~political~~ ~~criminals~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~USSR~~ ~~that~~ ~~all~~ ~~even~~ ~~if~~ ~~they~~ ~~were~~ ~~prosecuted~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~full~~ ~~extent~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ "revolutionary law" there would be no occasion for terror.
3. If the existing 30-year old terror is abated owing to the absence of political criminals the potential criminals will not only be exposed soon but ~~they~~ ~~will~~ ~~be~~ ~~able~~ ~~to~~ ~~create~~ ~~such~~ ~~a~~ ~~state~~ ~~of~~ ~~affairs~~ ~~that~~ ~~would~~ ~~become~~ ~~as~~ ~~to~~ ~~make~~ ~~the~~ ~~position~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Soviet~~ ~~State~~ ~~precarious~~ ~~indeed~~.

These conditions influence the ~~activities~~ ~~of~~ the political police to a considerable measure ~~in organizing~~ ~~mass~~ ~~preventive~~ ~~repressive~~ ~~measures~~.

~~repressive~~ ~~measures~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~camp~~ ~~system~~ The camps ~~are~~ ~~filled~~ ~~in~~ ~~this~~ ~~manner~~ ~~irrespective~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~labor~~ ~~demand~~ ~~for~~ ~~labor~~.

As a result of this, ~~prisons~~ ~~and~~ ~~camps~~ ~~are~~ ~~extremely~~ ~~overcrowded~~ ~~during~~ ~~the~~ ~~so-called~~ "purges". This leads to large ~~expenditures~~ ~~incurred~~ ~~in~~ ~~maintaining~~ ~~prisoners~~ ~~who~~ ~~are~~ ~~not~~ ~~yet~~ ~~producing~~ ~~and~~ ~~death~~ ~~of~~ ~~many~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~persons~~ ~~before~~ ~~they~~ ~~have~~ ~~even~~ ~~been~~ ~~exploited~~.

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As a result of such a system individuals representing all strata of Soviet society find their way into the camps irrespective of ~~their~~ the economic use to which they could be put in the camps. Moreover 90 percent of them are rounded up on the principle "first get the individual; the basis concocted for the arrest will be ~~found~~ later."

Nevertheless

The social composition ~~changes~~ of the camps changes in accordance with the ~~times~~ ^{generations} of the bolshevist policy.

twenties

In the early ~~20s~~ the largest component of the camps represented the "hostile classes": the bourgeoisie, the nobility, officers, the clergy.

twenties

In the middle ~~20s~~ there appeared representatives of former revolutionary parties, social-revolutionaries and mensheviks, and some representatives of the intra-party opposition, Trotskyites, Zinov'yevites, and others.

measures

The First Five-Year Plan and collectivization brought the peasantry into the concentration camps. The amount of prisoners representing the intelligentsia ~~increased~~ strongly increased in the middle of the thirties, and at the beginning of the war there ~~emerged~~ appeared a large stratum of the "rightist class" - hereditary and nonhereditary workers.

introduced

The 1939-1940 deportations brought "foreigners" into the camps.

The debacle of national republics which ~~were~~ "betrayed socialism" introduced a group called "national traitors". The capitulation of Germany and the post-war period radically ~~had~~ changed the composition of ~~prisoners~~

~~prisoners~~ prisoners and ushered in a large mass of repatriates and representatives of all ~~European~~ eastern and south-eastern European nations. ~~There are~~ ^{at the present time} noticeably more women and youths in labor camps as ~~compared~~ compared with the prewar era. ~~There are~~

The testimony of ~~one~~ a prisoner from the town of Yerka, located between Novosibirsk and Kemerovo, is very interesting in this connection.

~~The population of~~ "The civilian population of the town numbers 35,000, they totaled There were 3,800 German prisoners; ~~and~~ recently (in May 1948) ~~there were~~ 2,500. There are roughly 2,000 Soviet prisoners. Moreover, arrival of new prisoners is anticipated to replace the Germans, consequently their number will rise to 4,000-6,000. The "free" civilian population is to a large extent composed of exiles - ^{region} Volga Germans, Uzbeks, Bessarabians, ^{numerous} Ukrainians

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and of course Russians. There are ~~xxx~~ many women among them. Many for 15-20 years ^{periods} are interned because they are under suspicion for ^{participation} ~~participating~~ in the Vlasov movement. Some maintain that they were exposed by the Americans. The Armed Guard personnel [VOKHR] ^{and} including officers are also punished by ~~internment~~ internment in punishing camps."

Similar type of information is available from the Donbass and Karelia. ~~Based on testimony~~ On testimony of an eyewitness, (Petrozavodsk region), 13-14 year old children, one may frequently see imprisoned ~~children from the occupied districts~~ Most of them are from formerly occupied regions. Exiled women, ~~chiefly~~ chiefly from Bessarabia, Rumania, and Hungary, live in ~~xxx~~ unguarded camps, a whole series of, in the Donbass. Apparently ~~special~~ special women's camps have been established in Arman (Kolyma), Vanslag (Ozernyy Kray), Stalinogorsk (Central Russia). So-called "Women Oppositions" camps (in ^{the} "Karlag" system) no longer exist.

As a result of this shift it can be frankly stated that if prior to the war ~~xxx~~ grown men constituted 80 percent of the prisoners, ^{comprise} ~~then~~ today women and adolescent children ~~constitute~~ a good 30 percent, if not more. In a similar manner the percentage of foreigners has grown from 0 to some undoubtedly conspicuous figure. However, I believe that it will again decrease, for ~~the~~ Europeans who do not know the language doubtlessly are and Soviet ~~life~~ ~~xxx~~ the first ones to perish in concentration camps.

Prisoners may be separated into three categories according to the nature of their crimes:

1. criminals ~~2 counterrevolutionaries~~
2. those convicted under the 58th ~~statute~~ statute ("Kontriki") [^]
of specific ~~crimes~~ ~~xxx~~
3. those convicted ~~xxx~~ ^{for} ~~xxx~~ labor offenses or violating the Soviet daily order ("Bytoviki")

A. Criminals

According to the official terminology criminals are "Social ^{harmful} elements". This is the only group in labor camps which ^{not} ~~was~~ interned

workings of
because of the Soviet regime and is in no way connected with the political terroristic purges.

These are ^{merely} ~~simply~~ professional criminals called "Urkagans" or simply "Urki", representatives of the Soviet criminal world, differing very little from criminals of any other country. They are more numerous because of

the emergence of newer and ^{fresh} ~~newer~~ waves of ~~homeless children~~ homeless children, who in the Soviet civilian life are called "hooligans". In most cases "hooligans" are young people for whom the order of the thieves' world is a ^{kind} ~~sort~~ of ~~an~~ ideal. Impudence and any form of dissoluteness is ^{to} a great ~~extent~~ part petty, but sometimes thefts assume large proportions.

~~Wantonly~~ Wantonness - "hooliganism" without any purpose or significance - perpetrated in ~~both~~ inebriated ~~and~~ and sober states are considered *"the thing"* ~~nothing~~ in this milieu.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~Political and social causes for increasing hooliganism in the USSR~~

~~Political and social causes for increasing hooliganism in the USSR~~

~~work to be disregarded~~ are to be disregarded as breeding hooliganism in the ~~USSR~~. This is not the place ~~for~~ *to* speak of political and social causes which breed hooliganism in the USSR, but of the results. ~~Frequently the motives for crimes are only the desire to act dissolutely.~~ Frequently crimes which are ^{are} perpetrated with characteristic of Soviet life ~~have~~ ^{have} no other motive than the desire to ~~commit a crime~~ act like a hooligan. Obviously if ^a ~~the~~ hooligan ^{perceive} ~~some~~ even though some ~~benefit~~ ^{advantage} for himself he commits a crime very easily, ~~still~~ ^{still} he is ~~still~~ far from being a professional ~~criminal~~ criminal.

~~There are no fewer hooligans~~ ^{are} ~~in camps than real professional "Urki".~~

[hooligans] group
They are the worst ~~group~~ ^{group} in camps. It is owing to these individuals ^{today} ~~that~~ ^{remains today} ~~no trace~~ of the former self-styled permanent ~~and~~ thieves' ethics ~~in~~ ^{by way of} ~~in~~ which the "Urki" were famous.

Formerly the "old time" ^{Urkan} ~~Urkagan~~ treated the helpless and lost member of the intelligentsia who shared ~~the same~~ ^{his} bunk ~~with him~~ with peculiar disdainful benevolence. ~~At the present time the same~~ ^{by way of} ~~the contemporary "Urka"~~ who enters the criminal world ~~through~~ ^{by way of} moral

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Mention should be made of the fact ~~that only those persons whom the MGB considers~~
~~that only those persons whom the MGB considers~~ under the 58th statute in regular
 potential enemies of the Soviet authorities serve their terms ~~under the~~
 concentration camps. ~~58th statute~~. They are ~~officially~~ designated as "socially-harmful".

The following are some of the crimes ascribed to them: antisoviet
 agitation, sabotage, preparation of terroristic acts, espionage, participation
 in underground counterrevolutionary organizations, ~~and~~ rebellion against the Soviet
 authorities. Evidence obtained ~~for the purpose of convicting all persons~~
 statute is always fictitious. ~~Subject to the course of mass perceptible actions~~
~~perceptible~~ The convicted counterrevolutionaries ~~possessed~~
 almost always possessed more or less ~~antibolshevik~~ sentiments prior to their
 arrest, and those ~~apprehended~~ apprehended by the party or the political
 police served as the basis for ~~repressing these kinds of~~ individuals in the
 regular course of mass terrorism.

Individuals guilty or even implicated in activities against the
 Soviet authorities are never placed in regular ~~corrective-labor~~ camps.
 They are either executed or ~~placed in special camps~~ kept totally
 isolated, particularly in ~~special camps~~ situated in regions beyond the Arctic
 Circle. They are never released, for even in the event of a political
 revolution in Russia the MVD will have time to liquidate them before
 the prisons and camps ~~will~~ fall into the hands ~~of~~ of a new power.

The ~~number~~ of prisoners sentenced under the 58th statute as compared
 with the remaining components of prisoners is subject to high fluctuations.
 In times directly before and after the purges their number increases and ~~later~~
 respectively. The ~~reason for this is~~ ~~to give impetus to the growth of prisoners at the~~
 beginning of a new purge. The gigantic expansion of camps in 1930-1932
 was effected specifically on ~~this~~ basis of this statute. It was at that
 time that ~~the number of~~ counterrevolutionaries ~~were numbered~~ in millions.
 The majority of them ~~constituted~~ at that time constituted peasants who were
 dispatched to perform logging operations for comparatively short terms of
 3-5 years "for" participation in armed uprisings against the Soviet order
 and "for" antisoviet agitation", etc as specified in statutes 58, 2 and 10.

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Owing to the fact that this wave of prisoners was interned at the time ^{when} ~~that~~ the famous "Dryna" (a stick with which the prisoners were beaten) was revoked and relatively good rations were issued to those fulfilling the norms (see above), these peasants, who were accustomed to hard physical labor, in most ^{instances} ~~cases~~ left the camps alive and were sent to a number of regions as exiled settlers. They played a large and important role in developing these areas. However, they created lethal conditions in camps for the physically weaker counterrevolutionaries of the intelligentsia which supplanted them. Labor norms were established on the basis of the output of the peasants and were too high even for industrial workers. In view of the ensuing waves of political terrorism (the murder of Kirov, the trials of party members opposing the new line, Yezhev's policy) prisoners who were convicted under the 58th statute constituted the majority of prisoners during the thirties. The purges which were conducted during this period literally shook the entire population of the USSR and by 1938 hardly a family remained which was not affected by these repressive measures. The duration of penalties pronounced by the NKVD tended to increase. There were fewer and fewer 3-year sentences whereas the 5, 8, and 10-year terms became graphically more prevalent. Mortality rose due to decreased food rations and the inability to adjust themselves to heavy physical labor.

The end of Yezhev's rule and a rise in mortality led to a systematic reduction in the number of prisoners sentenced under the 58th statute. those sentenced under this 25X1

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statute no longer comprised the majority in 1940- 1943. Prisoners were interned on different charges in the forties.

In the thirties the imprisoned counterrevolutionaries were purged from all strata of the Soviet population. The general technique of these purges which was created and developed by a special committee of state security after the murder of Kirov is well known. It is based on ~~2~~ permanent and apparently well-established observations of the political sentiments of all segments of the population. The observations is conducted by a group of "seksoty" (secret collaborators) of the political police and party organizations. In compliance with the results of these observations and after the kremlin has decided which group is to be thoroughly "shattered" (the Rykov-Tomsk case covered the party circles; the Tukhachevskiy case covered the military circles, etc.), an approximate number of individuals subject to repression is ascertained. Lists of names of supposed "counterrevolutionaries" based on these directives and so-called "tables of criteria" are drawn up by the local state security organs. Their individual cases are examined and additional evidence is either collected or fabricated if necessary. (This is usually done prior to arrest, but if there is too much work it is done after the arrest.) These cases are "affixed" to the arrested individuals. Later they must confess the guilt which the cases ascribe to them. The methods of eliciting these confessions are more modern than those of Hitler's Gestapo (in the second instance, genuine

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guilt was sought providing the person under investigation was not a Jew) and can in no way be compared with medieval tortures. Consequently everyone confesses. Experienced "political criminals" by no means defend themselves during interrogations, but merely endeavor to discover the nature of their crime. They "confess" easily and unhesitatingly, preferring shorter investigations to useless defense. During very intensive purges cases were tried in closed sessions and the arrested individuals were convicted and banished without any interrogations.

On the basis of wide experience of such purges the NKVD (since 1941 it was the NKGP) was faced, from 1939 to 1941 inclusive, with the task of purging the newly acquired territories (eastern Poland, the Baltic States, Bessarabia) of "socially-harmful elements". The technique employed in the purges, namely mass deportations of certain segments of the population to the east as prisoners and exiles, is excellently [redacted] As a result of these purges the number of deportees was very large. On the basis of statistics [redacted] it can be freely stated that the average figure of deportees in these years approached a 2,000,000 mark, 70-80 percent of which were sent to concentration camps. Currently, these persons are numbered in hundreds or a few thousands, whereas formerly they constituted 400,000 or even 500,000. The contingent of prisoner counterrevolutionaries has been somewhat changed. Since that time this group has consisted of 10-15 percent foreigners deported from Europe, Manchuria and Korea.

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Of the hundreds of thousands of prisoners who were sent to concentration camps during the war in connection with the liquidation of such autonomous regions as the Volga German Region, the Kamytsk, the Checheno-Ingush, the Crimean, and the Karachayev Oblasts, only several tens of thousands of prisoners have remained alive. The majority have perished. A small number have been freed. They became fewer after living in new regions under socialist construction.

Hence at the present time the majority of prisoners sentenced under the 58th statute are composed of repatriates and former residents of regions occupied by the Germans. The screening of millions of people who in the course of a fairly long period of time lived outside of the radius of the "all-seeing eye" of the bolshevik political police has still not been completed, although it should be assumed that the number of such "criminals" has diminished markedly as compared with 1945, 1946, and even 1947. The duration of penalties which these individuals received varied greatly and the investigation of such persons lasted a relatively short time. I am of the opinion that short-term prisoners (whose sentences range from one to three years) are predominant. They labor under compulsion in local camps of Ukraine and Belorussia. These prisoners constitute at least a majority of prisoners in the Donbass. It is believed that a good

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half of the coal produced in this region is mined by them. Uneducated persons are predominant among these short-term prisoners. There are especially many women and young girls who have been subjected to forced labor, frequently ~~only be-~~ ^{only be-} cause they washed clothes for the Germans during the occupation. On the other hand, members of the intelligentsia who lived under German rule were subjected to severe interrogations and received long sentences. Sentences ranging from five to ten years were by no means a rarity for this category of prisoners. This is the reason there are so few of them in Belorussia and Ukraine. As a rule, long-term prisoners are sent North, to Siberia or to Kazakhstan. They seldom return from these places. ~~Among them should be included~~ ^{The newly} emerged postwar category of imprisoned or semi-free repatriates ^{should be included among them.} A group of them is situated in camps where conditions are very severe.

This is what two escaped eyewitnesses have to say about this category of prisoners: "At last we reached Camp Bruk on the Leyta River where more or less similar people had been congregated. A meeting ^{was} held several days after our arrival. A speaker from our midst said that all of us had been guilty before our native land and people and made a motion that every one sign up for construction work beyond the Ural Mountains for five years without stopping first to visit our families as the sole means of exculpating our guilt. As was to be expected no contrary opinions were voiced when the question of who opposed this motion was raised. Consequently the suggestion was accepted

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unanimously and in two days we were driven into freight cars in groups of 70 persons. After bolting the doors from the outside we were sent to our destination."

Postwar replacements of prisoners sentenced under the 58th statute are effected almost exclusively by the "Zhdanov policy" which advocates a struggle against "servility to the West" and against "nonfulfillment of the Five-Year Plan in four years." It must be added that these sources are unable to replace the rapidly decreasing numbers of "counterrevolutionaries" in camps who perish of natural causes.

The number of prisoners of this category is diminishing.

Mention should be made of the fact that only short-term prisoners and "westerners" who receive light sentences are sent to labor camps. The majority of prisoners are guarded under more severe conditions.

3. "Bytoviki"

This category of persons is imprisoned for violating different statutes of the Criminal Code of the Soviet Union. Moreover daily infractions occur of necessity in one form or another.

Punishment is administered by Soviet justice and organs of state security "in moderation", chiefly on the basis of charges conducted not from a purely political standpoint but because of economic-political considerations.

In this instance criminal law statutes represent a necessary juridical cover. Acts relating to "misappropriation

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of socialist property", "infringement of labor laws", "falsification of ~~credentials~~ ^{accounts}", "exceeding the authority", etc. are unavoidably committed by each Soviet citizen. Without committing these offenses a Soviet citizen is incapable of supporting his family or even carrying out his share of "party and government responsibilities". If the responsibilities are not executed the individual is tried under the 58th statute as a "traitor", "saboteur" or "wrecker".

The sources of these crimes are essentially omnipresent poverty and premeditation. A collective farmer who steals a "pud" of socialist grain from the collective farm granary is dispatched to pan gold in Kolyma simply because the amount of grain allotted to him by the state for subsistence was insufficient.

An engineer who infringes a labor law and voluntarily leaves an industry is placed under forced labor because the personnel section of an enterprise does not wish to "falsify his accounts" and the management refuses to "exceed its authority". However, if they assist him by formalizing his release it is quite conceivable that the management would be judged for "infraction of the labor law." It is a well known fact that fulfillment of the plan in the USSR is impossible without "exceeding the authority" and without resorting to deception. It is impossible to get along without the "4 P" *(continued on next page)*

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formula in bookkeeping accounts (p_1 is the floor on which the account is based; p_2 is the ceiling from which numbers are chosen; p_3 is the finger used in sucking out the missing facts; p_4 is the pen, the equipment used in production).

Crimes about which we are ~~speaking~~ ^{concerned} are the integral part of Soviet life. Just as doubts concerning the good intentions of the party and government flicker across the mind of the Soviet citizen every day so crimes are committed by him daily. Both one and the other are not exceptions but the rule in Soviet life. Just as political purges attend each new stage of development of the bolshevik party, so arrests and repressive measures for violations of the daily order of Soviet life are systematically carried out at all lagging sections of industry and bottlenecks of socialist construction.

Kaganovich's rule over Soviet transport in its time contributed many experienced railroad workers to the camp system. They, by the way, were useful in the construction of BAM [Baykal-Amur Trunk Line].

The law entitled "Criminal Accountability for Misappropriation of State and Public Property", dated 7 August 1932 and renewed by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on 4 May 1947, provided the camps with many previously unpunished "misappropriators of the sacred socialist property". The December 1935 labor laws sent innumerable "grafters, drifters, loafers, trouble makers, idlers, and disorganizers of production" to the camps.

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The penalties for these crimes which are indissolubly tied with the Soviet way of life are applied by the bolsheviks purposefully and almost exclusively in lagging sections of industry. It is their aim to "raise the laggards to the level of the leading workers" by instilling fear and to surpass production difficulties by straining human efforts to the maximum.

The currently noticeable augmentation of railroad cases is not accidental, but signifies the sad state of affairs in Soviet transport. It also means that labor camps will be replenished with persons ~~who will be convicted by~~ ^{whom the courts} ~~on~~ of negligence, self-centeredness, complacency, ~~and for~~ "wasting government funds", "falsification of accounts" and many more abuses in other branches of the national economy, which for a time being will not be redressed.

It seems to me that purges of different sections of Soviet life which are systematically conducted by the bolsheviks provide the camps with no fewer prisoners than large waves of political terrorists. A group of these convicted individuals falls under the 88th statute (wreckage and sabotage) but the majority ~~comprises~~ ^{is comprised of} if one may designate them as such, "economic" or "office" criminals.

~~In essence~~ ^{for the most part} Prisoners of this category are ordinary Soviet citizens who have done nothing unusual. They are like the counterrevolutionaries who were placed behind a wired fence only because they were "unlucky" and found themselves in a "tight spot", all due to unjust fate which

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attracted the "attention and solicitude" of the party, the government and Comrade Stalin.

IV. Intra-Camp Category of Prisoners

Despite the vast diverseness ~~not~~ so much in the regime as in the goals and methods of exploiting prisoners, the mode of existence, the rules, the social relations and the political sentiments are very similar in camps.

The social and political roles of concentration camp inmates closely resemble those of the none too few groups of exiles and special settlers. However, the latter differ from prisoners in that they do not live behind a wired fence. As a rule they live with their families and in most cases work on the same basis as the rank and file Soviet citizens.

Therefore this is not the time or place to examine this group of individuals which constitutes a kind of transition between the prisoners and free citizens of the USSR.

Almost everyone who is fortunate to leave the camps falls into this group. As a group opposing the bolshevik regime it must be examined together with the concentration camp inmates and not with the free Soviet citizens.

From a medical point of view prisoners are divided into four categories. These categories partly determine the type of work in which the prisoners are engaged.

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People in the first category, the so-called "horse" category, and also in the second category engage in heavy manual labor. As an exception of course a prisoner may sometimes maneuver his way into the service personnel classification. Such an operation is made more difficult if the prisoner belongs to either the first or second category.

The third and fourth categories imply partial ability to work. The position of a prisoner listed under the fourth category may be deemed hopeless. For the most part they are considered to be "approaching death"; they die slowly in hospital barracks. Persons with such infirmities as hernia, heart diseases or ulcers of the stomach are listed under the third category. ~~Recruited from this group are~~ ^{Orderlies} chiefs, barbers and others *are recruited from this group.*

Medical categories are of the greatest significance when camp centers or camps receive orders to send detachments of prisoners to other camps which are under different administrations. The local administration always endeavors to include the feeble individuals, those who do not want to labor or are unable to work with the loggards "filony". As a result of this weaker prisoners registered under the third category who were unable to attach themselves permanently to a kitchen or warehouse travel from one camp to another and dissipate their strength. They ~~once more~~ ^{again} occupy the worst positions ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ new camps and finally receive a permanent spot only with the "Former Fifteenth Company", in other words, in a cemetery.

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Medical categories are of secondary importance for specialist who may be useful as administrative or technical personnel. They are an important factor in determining the position of ordinary prisoners in labor camps.

Prisoners are divided into five so-called "production categories" which are independent of the state of health of these prisoners. These are as follows:

A. Persons directly connected with production work. These include workers, all brigade leaders, foremen and a hands-on 30 percent of the administrative and technical workers of the camps. By decree, this group must consist of not less than 85 percent of the total prisoners.

B. Persons servicing group A, such as chefs, tailors, medical assistants, etc. This group must not constitute more than 10 percent of the total prisoners. Actually it is always around 15 percent, not including those whom the administration managed to transfer to category A by "tufts". [pull].

Categories C, D, and E may not constitute more than 5 percent of the total camp population. Category C is composed of temporarily infirm prisoners; category D consists of individuals who refuse to work and are confined to hospital barracks; and category E is made up of punished prisoners, prisoners under investigation, and other miscellaneous groups.

Production categories fundamentally do not determine the position of individuals in camps. They merely limit the size of the administrative and service personnel. If these limitations

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did not exist the service personnel would undoubtedly reach 30 percent of the total camp population and the remaining half would be engaged in office work.

classified in two groups:

All prisoners should be divided into two classifications:

1. The privileged, i. e., the administrative and technical personnel and the entire B. category.
2. The working mass which bears all hardships and is deprived of camp life.

The privileged minority is a kind of "camp elite". It differs from the mass of prisoners in that it lives under conditions which in no way can be considered normal, but under which it is possible to live eight or nine years without becoming a human wreck. Prisoners who are lucky to remain in this category possess all chances of leaving the camp when their terms expire. The rank and file prisoners can only hope to hold out for three or five years, providing he is born hardy and healthy, possesses endurance and can cope with heavy manual labor.

1. Administrative, Technical and Service Personnel in Corrective-Labor Camps.

Prisoners began to take part in the camp administration in 1930 when the Solovetskiye "Death Camps" were transformed, at the wave of OGPU's hand, into an organization for the exploitation of forced labor. At first the role of these prisoners was large. [the Armed Guard] was recruited from ~~among~~ prisoners in those times. Prisoners who were engineers and administrators supervised *projects involving* several thousands of prisoners. However in 1933-1934 there was a *tendency* ~~trend~~ to employ voluntary personnel for responsible offices (frequently persons who had just completed serving their sentences). Individuals sentenced under the 58th statute were forbidden to occupy posi-

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tions ^{that of} higher than ~~a~~ foremen. In 1938, with the inauguration of a stricter regime, prisoners working as administrators and technicians could no longer be excluded from the general control.

During the war there was apparently a reversed trend in camps situated in the North. But as soon as Germany capitulated the old tendency to employ voluntary labor at least in responsible offices was again renewed with vigor.

It is difficult to say how far GTIAG has progressed in this direction. The lower administration and direct technical supervision of work is currently undoubtedly in the hands of prisoners. It can be strongly asserted that their importance in the administration of camps is diminishing and will probably continue to diminish.

Twenty to thirty percent of prisoners compose this group. Its number and composition depends entirely upon the nature of work in which the camp inmates engage. The size of this group increases in industries and on construction projects but diminishes for simple labor consuming operations in the forest or mines.

Like any Soviet apparatus the administrative, technical and economic sections of camps tend to become large. From time to time they ^{are} ~~purged~~ and their staff is reduced. Each prisoner who falls into this group not only attempts to ^{pick} ~~get~~ an assistant from the prisoner masses but endeavors to find a place for a favorite comrade in order to rescue him from death and the workers' brigade.

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Those times when intelligent or semi-literate individuals were in high demand and could find office jobs without any difficulty were over by 1937. Yezhev's policy made sufficient numbers of the intelligentsia available to the camps, and administrative and technical positions for persons sentenced under the 58th statute ~~became more and more difficult~~ *less accessible*. At the present time this type of personnel is recruited primarily from specialists who are sentenced for ~~infraction~~ *infringement* of the Soviet labor law and who are able to cope with their jobs.

The food rations issued to them are no better than those received by the first category of workers although they are enriched with various kinds of waste food products. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] *features* very curious facts in connection with this point [REDACTED] in their times.

[REDACTED] Soviet methods of management are most vividly exemplified. ~~which~~

The administrative, technical and service personnel, beginning with the most outstanding foreman and chief bookkeeper and ending with the last person in charge of ten individuals or a barber, are all more or less of the same clique who constantly inspire and support each other. Their slogan is "let the wolves be fed and the sheep remain unharmed." They strive to indicate in the official reports of the camp that norms are fulfilled and overfulfilled. They endeavor to credit camp inmates with fulfilling the norm 100 percent when ~~they actually only~~ *actually only 80% is* ~~completed~~ *completed.* These efforts of the administration undoubtedly make the lot of many prisoners easier. There is a

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are completely unmasked, ~~here~~.

Camps are associated with a number of fictions, such as "educational work", "socialist competition" ^{and} "exhortation of socialist construction by setting up great goals". In the free world everybody is obliged to pretend that he accepts these fictions in earnest. No one pretends in labor camps. The only thing that actually exists is production conferences. At these meetings it is not permissible to speak of the manner in which the work will be performed. Only "criticism and self-criticism" is tolerated.

Representatives of the Soviet elite and the Soviet intelligentsia who are subjected to repressive measures learn from the start the methods used by state security organs. Later they find themselves in camps. After working in a brigade they either perish or work their way into administrative or technical positions, where they see the old familiar Soviet way of life stripped of the illusory propaganda. The picture of the "Soviet University" becomes complete if mention is made of the fact that it is possible to speak more freely on many topics in camps than in the free world, notwithstanding the prevalence of secret collaborators in camps also. "Students" who are released upon completion of their terms become uncompromising antistalinists. They profoundly understand the essence of the Soviet regime and are prepared to fight it until death. The motto adopted by them during the German occupation was "Side even with the Devil as long as it is against Stalin."

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SECRET2. Workers' Brigades

Seventy to eighty percent of the prisoners, in other words the rest of the camp inmates excluding the sick and those under investigation, comprise the workers' brigades. The selection of brigade workers is a difficult and worrisome task for the lower camp administration. As early as the thirties there was established the practice of requiring an equal norm from every prisoner regardless of his physical condition. Therefore it became necessary to disperse the physically weak and unfit among the more strong in order to make it feasible for the brigade as a whole to come with its assignments. At times this ignoble practice has led to disgusting brawls and bickerings, and at other times, on the contrary, it has occasioned manifestations of compassion and care for weaker comrades, which is amazing under conditions prevalent in concentration camps. I was told of numerous instances when such assistance was given to middle-aged members of the intelligentsia who were completely unfit for lumbering and earth work. These cases indicate the fact that high qualities of the Russian national spirit have still been preserved.

The intelligentsia and especially the more delicate foreigners who are currently placed in workers' brigades for the most part perish. Times have past when every literate person quickly found an administrative or technical position. They are usually unable to endure even the shortest term (three years) in a workers' brigade. Prisoners from the south, the Caucasus and Central Asia, do not hold out well either. Perhaps this is the reason the special Prorvinskiy Camp was established on the shores of the Caspian Sea. Those who are best

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able to endure labor conditions are the peasants and some members of the Soviet intelligentsia who were accustomed to privations and hard labor.

Socialist competition methods which receive impetus from the ~~keenly felt differentiation~~ ^{noticeably different} in food rations ["kettle"] long ago introduced to the camp masses the spirit of competition, the desire to get out even at the cost of a comrade, deception and other characteristic features of "socialist psychology." The average morale of persons placed in a physically unbearable and morally degenerating environment is not as low, however, as may be expected.

According to European standards, of course, not only prisoners but generally speaking all Soviet citizens may be considered lacking in moral excellence. From the Western-European point of view it is impossible to live in the USSR, and the thought of living in labor camps does not even enter the mind. When any of the previously mentioned crimes are perpetrated every hour by the repressed majority of the population they cease to be crimes. To cleverly swindle the administration, to obtain the largest food ration, to resort to "pull" or to defraud anyone as long as some living person does not feel the dire consequences, and moreover to help a comrade out of a situation, is not evil but is often regarded as a good deed. This unique set of ethics which in many ways is analogous to the ethics of the criminal world predominates in labor camps. Only an inexperienced individual interprets the predominance of this set of ethics as moral

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disintegration. The majority of prisoners have undoubtedly preserved a conscience and a unique, ~~and~~ so to speak, "pragmatic" set of moral principles.

Thefts and similar infamies occur only because a large number of "Urki" are present. ^{They occur} ~~and~~ primarily in forwarding camps and new camp centers, in other words where people have not yet become acquainted with each other and have not had the opportunity to live together for any long period of time. Fraternal relations may be detected within separate brigades. True, these relations do not extend beyond the ^{individual} brigade.

The relations between the masses, the Armed Guard and the administrative and technical personnel by no means may be considered inimical. The administration which ^{is} composed of prisoners never attempts to harm its workers. Foremen, and at times the guard, are indulgent toward the brigade workers because of inherent sympathy or in the interest of maintaining friendly relations. They use their influence and even resort to bribery. The prisoners comprehend this and express their gratitude by trying not to put "good" supervisors in awkward positions. Brigade workers do not regard the privileged position of the camp elite with envy; it is considered the normal thing.

There are relatively few stool pigeons, called "Stukachi", in labor camps and among the camp elite. They practically do not exist in workers' brigades and if they are present they soon become known. This insures the comparatively unimpeded practice of "blat" and a relative amount of freedom of speech. Naturally one does expect to find political interests and ^{particularly} ~~and~~ ^{mature} political opinions among the over-exhausted prisoners who in the majority of the cases are semilliterate.

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The topics of conversation are usually the following: current living conditions, recollections of the former life and camp news. Religion is seldom discussed and politics are discussed even less frequently. Dreams of release and postcamp life are never revealed. Such expressions as "someday we will be released" or "someday we will return home" may be heard once in a while among the camp elite, but in the workers' brigades too many people will give up their lives for socialist construction. Inherent tact, which is the outstanding feature of simple folk, compels them to take these persons into consideration.

Politics are never discussed here but the political opinion ~~of~~ the imprisoned masses nevertheless is clear. Nine tenths of them were not satisfied with the Soviet regime even when they were free. ~~The concentration camp~~ As a "university" has made them more aware of the Soviet regime and irreconcilable to it. Cossacks and peasants who at one time were in labor camps unconditionally supported the German ^{they did not} ~~even question-~~ ~~ing~~ the presence of the Germans on Russian soil. They forsook their beloved land and followed the Germans west.

Labor camps teach the prisoners to accept bolshevik fictions (it had already been mentioned that fictions of "rescuing" and "labor enthusiasm" exist there) not as a ritual or as an illusion but as cynical and contemptuous treatment of the people. The purpose is to conceal the facts of exploitation and death of millions of people. This is clear to every camp inmate. And every former prisoner unconsciously

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becomes a very convincing agitator against the Soviet regime. Many times I heard brief comments from Belorussian peasants which showed that they understood the situation perfectly. *their statements* ~~which were~~ testimony to the fact that the existence of slavery is an integral feature of the Soviet structure ^{and} attested to the prevalence of measures designed to conceal this fact.

V. The Significance of Corrective-Labor Camps in the System of Bolshevik Rule

The importance of the Corrective-Labor Camp system is immense in realizing the "business of Lenin and Stalin". From the political point of view it is one of the most significant links in organizing bolshevist terrorisms; from the political standpoint it is an essential cover for the fulfillment of a series of assignments which are vital in increasing the military potential of the USSR to the maximum.

The bolshevik administration takes both of these factors into consideration. The prophets of this system doubtlessly exaggerate the benefits derived from the Corrective-Labor Camp system. The disadvantages are, ^{an} ~~the~~ exposure of the misanthropic feature of the Soviet regime to many millions of people, and ^a ~~the~~ very high loss of prisoners' lives and health. ^{They constitute} ~~which are~~ the cost of economic projects built with forced labor.

1. The Political significance of Camps

The political meaning of concentration camps for bolshevism in itself needs no elaboration. Prisoners of these camps are an example of the most widespread though not the

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sole form of repression to which the bolsheviks subject their foes. They are an example of the most widely applied form of bolshevik terror. Terror is not only the basic insurance for a stable Soviet structure but a prerequisite for the hypnotic propaganda under which ^{the} the people of the "most democratic country in the world", ~~live~~ As a result of this, fear, aggravated by a general material dependence upon the state, never leaves a Soviet citizen and generates (frequently subconsciously) the desire to believe in myths and fiction which have been indoctrinated in him through bolshevik propaganda. This propaganda has developed in the average Soviet citizen certain "conditioned reflexes" which enable him to vote "freely" for a block of communists and nonparty candidates." He also "voluntarily" does not use the wonderful freedoms "guaranteed" to him by the "golden letters of the sunny Stalin constitution."

The difference between freedom and imprisonment in the USSR is by no means pronounced. The word "freedom" in the liberal-capitalist sense does not exist in the USSR. There are only degrees of slavery, which is more important.

A concentration camp inmate is simply a slave in the true meaning of the word. He is subject to direct coercion which is not disguised and only conveniently masked under the term "reshoeing". The free Soviet citizen is inhibited by necessary hypocrisy, pseudoconfidence, and bolshevik fictions. But Basically the relationship is the same. On the one side there is the party member, the member of the Central Committee or the member of the Politbureau who is invested with enormous

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power, and who has vast material resources at his disposal, but who is spiritually hampered and whose creative genius has been crushed ~~but~~ by the forced profession of an official doctrine which is obviously hypocritical. (Any pronouncement of a Soviet diplomat, the entire Soviet press, including the writings of bolshevist leaders such as [redacted]

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[redacted] in which no mention is made of forced labor in Soviet economy, may serve as examples.) On the other side there is the "counterrevolutionary" or the "bytovik" trudging to the next camp center under guard but fully realizing the monstrous meaning of bolshevism and his relationship to it.

It should be borne in mind (to prove ^{this, however} ~~it~~ is not the object of this work) that the inherent characteristic of bolshevism - totalitarian rule - is manifesting itself in two ways ^{by} projected ^{ing its} rule over the material life of an individual and over the spiritual life of man. The concentration camp system primarily realizes the former. The prisoner is a slave in the physical sense but he is more free than any Soviet citizen who is merely threatened with prospects of finding himself behind the barbed wire. "Free" life in the USSR affords an individual better material conditions which, however, must be paid by a "voluntary" renunciation of spiritual freedoms and by the responsibilities which stem from it. Each person who tries to preserve his spiritual freedom in one way or another resists bolshevism and sooner or later finds himself in a labor camp.

The corrective-labor camp system in the USSR did not evolve accidentally. Let me repeat once more that it is a guarantee to the stability of the Soviet structure. Bolshevik

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propaganda would lose its force if there ^{was} ~~were~~ no political police, no system of concentration camps, and no fear of the horrifying experiences of imprisonment and life in labor camps. Hence, concentration camps must be examined simultaneously as a source of power of the Soviet regime and as a source of weakness. Labor camps instill the population with fear of bolshevism and they also provide the population with a cause for hatred. The Corrective-Labor Camp system is the sole bulwark of the Soviet structure and the only place in the USSR where such hatred may exist. If this hatred is not expressed it is at least thought and realized. The huge, and perhaps the ^{essential} ~~distinctive~~ meaning of labor camps lies in their ability to stabilize the Soviet authority and in the part they play in the struggle against bolshevism.

2. The Economic Significance of Camps

It would be a great mistake not to value Soviet concentration camps sufficiently for their economic import. However it would also be incorrect to examine them only as economic enterprises and as organizations for the exploitation of forced labor even in the light of their political importance described above.

The economic exploitation of labor camps is of primary significance. As has already been pointed out, prison labor ^{has been} ~~is~~ used on large construction projects, ^{it is sufficient to mention such projects as} ~~the~~ White Sea-Baltic Canal inside Stalin, the Baykal-Amur Railroad Trunk Line, the Moscow-Volga Canal, the Noril'sk Copper and Nickel Combine, the Sverdlovsk's Baunkite Mines and many others.

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They exist first of all for political reasons, ~~and~~ ^Ttheir economic exploitation, as that of any other Soviet enterprise, is determined by the needs of the bolshevik policy and the unique economic strategy of the bolsheviks.

The relationship between the political and economic aspects of the corrective-labor camp system may be described as follows:

The arrests, (both mass and individual), are made from the political point of view. Ever since the Commissariats (now the Ministry) of State Security was separated from the old NKVD the arrests have been carried out by the state security organ. This same organ conducts investigations and determines the repressive measures which are to be applied.

Subsequently, the majority of the persons arrested, although not all, are sent to concentration camps. The concentration camps are under the control of another agency, the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It is only at this point that political interest in the prisoner terminates and the prisoner is considered a labor force subject to economic exploitation. (The so-called total isolation camps constitute an exception in this instance).

The importance of prisoners as a labor force is of course taken into account by the bolsheviks. "when conducting arrests the NKVD does not forget its economic interests" hits the mark very accurately. The political and economic aspects of the corrective-labor camp system are so fused that neither one nor the other may be examined as a consequence of or as a cover for the other. Forced prison labor is ~~neither more nor less but~~

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but just as dependent on bolshevist policy as the rest of the Soviet economy. Only by virtue of this does the political aspect predominate, ~~while~~ ^{however,} ~~The~~ economic aspect ^{is} "is not forgotten". Moreover it "is not forgotten" if it lies ^{within} ~~in~~ the political interests of the Bolsheviki.

As has already been mentioned, evidence is not sufficiently available to ascertain more exactly the significance of the corrective-labor system and consequently ~~the~~ mass terrorisms, which keep these camps full, in the overall picture of the national economy of the USSR. The losses which constitute the cost of "cheap prison labor" are hardly taken into account by the bolsheviks. For example, if a qualified machine-builder is apprehended he is sent to perform logging operations. He is replaced at the plant by his comrades who have yet not been arrested and who in his absence are required to "work more and better on a voluntary basis". In an attempt to neutralize the effects created by systematic losses of qualified personnel, occasioned by the state security organs, a special system was established in 1945 whereby the repressed individual (providing the conviction was not serious) served his sentence at work. This measure, however, still has not affected the prisoners who are exploited in labor camps.

the central organs of GULAG of the MVD treat the skilled and professional prisoners very formally and regard them as unskilled labor. Differentiation takes place only within the camps and is dictated by local needs.

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Only when organizing operations assigned to them do the camp authorities select (through the Accounting and Placement Section (URO)) specialists from prisoners required for the projects, and sometimes entrust them with responsible jobs. As a consequence, for example, in the time of rapid construction of the Severoural'sk Bauxite Mines (1942-1945), the authorities which serviced this project of "Ivdel'lag" were required to start special courses for the purpose of training drilling foremen at a time when a large group of engineers was used in lumbering operations in the neighboring "Usol'lag". In 1947 "Dal'stroy" of the MVD advertised in ~~the newspaper "Pravda"~~ ^{different categories of} for ~~voluntary specialists~~ ^{in the newspaper "Pravda"} ~~for a number of jobs.~~ Undoubtedly these specialists could have been found among prisoners of other labor camps.

~~Briefly~~ ^{In short}, the desire to utilize the new prisoners more efficiently is relegated to a secondary position in the corrective-labor camp system. This results from the fact that labor camps together with the entire Soviet economy have been placed in the service of Lenin-Stalin's business. And this business is by no means of an economic nature.

Bolshevik economic strategy is not one more than a "springboard for world revolution". ~~and~~ The goal of Soviet economy is not to satisfy the material needs of the population and not to develop the economic potential efficiently but to increase the military might of the Soviet Union, to strengthen Soviet power and to finance the "struggle of the world proletariat against capitalist slavery."

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In this strategy the corrective-labor camp system is represented as an operational fund of manpower. Any amount of this labor force can be transferred at a given moment to any section of "socialist construction" at a minimum of cost. The camp authorities perform their assignments regardless of the losses. Owing to the complete subservience of prisoners, projects may be carried out without machinery, of which there is an acute shortage in the USSR, ^{and} without the need for construction of living quarters and in the presence of poor transport facilities. The life and health of prisoners replace the scarce capital and permit the construction of socialist industry where capitalism would never be able to succeed.

This is why the establishment of a central registry where files are kept of imprisoned specialists and ^{from} ~~from~~ ^{which} ~~where~~ prisoners may be directed to camps which would utilize their skills more efficiently does not attract the "attention of the party or the government." This entire operation is being poorly performed not because placement of people according to their qualifications entails a certain growth in bureaucracy, (the expense involved in such an undertaking would undoubtedly be fully covered), but because such an approach toward the utilization of prison labor would shackle the authorities and prevent the treatment of prisoners purely as a labor reserve fund, which at the present time is composed of persons regarded as equal units. In the early thirties GULAG willingly hired specialists, chiefly to preserve the right of manipulating this invaluable corps of prisoners in the bolshevist economic strategy. This army of prisoners served as a

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Kind of combat detachment for easing the bottle-necks in socialist construction. The elimination of disruptions in lumbering in 1931, 1939, and 1947 by sending more prisoners to logging camps serves as a graphic example of such inefficient utilization of prisoners.

The question of labor efficiency of prisoners as compared with voluntary labor is also of secondary importance to the bolsheviks. Labor efficiency differs in various camps in accordance with the nature of the projects. It has been said that at first the labor of a prisoner cost the Soviet government more than the labor of a hired worker. In 1931 lumber produced by voluntary workers of "Karelians" was three fifths the cost of lumber produced at Solovetskije Camps. (This is explained ^{on the grounds} ~~by the fact~~ that administrative expenses and expenses involved in maintaining a guard were abnormally ^{large} ~~high~~, the efficiency of prison labor was relatively low and the cost of food rations was somewhat high).

It was at that time, however, that foundations for the contemporary corrective-labor system were laid.

Great efforts were made in order to improve the efficiency of prison labor in the thirties. The measures adopted were the same as those used in the free world, notably, increased working norms and poorer supplies. Moreover evasion of work in labor camps is equivalent to starvation.

An assumption must be made that despite the fact that the coefficient of exploitation also rose outside the camps, prison

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labor in the thirties became cheaper than hired labor in all categories of work. However, competition with hired labor is not the objective of corrective-labor camps.

^{prisoners which constitute the}
The strategic labor fund, which is at the MVD's disposal, ^{are} ~~is~~ not assigned to places where competition may occur. Camps are organized either in uninhabited regions, where the establishment of free settlements would be a very costly operation and would require incredible efforts, or near industrial establishments and developments where operations are constantly interrupted owing to permanent or temporary labor shortages. The proletarian state can not grant these enterprises any other type of assistance. In this manner, forced labor of prisoners is employed chiefly where voluntary labor cannot be used in view of certain ^{general} reasons or due to temporary dislocations. This is the tremendous economic-strategic significance of labor camps, and they must be appraised only in this light.

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ERRATUM: Uchetno- ~~Ras~~^Upredelitel'nyy Otdel (URO)
should have been translated "Registration
and Placement Section" in lieu of "Accounting
and Placement Section".

SECRET

[REDACTED]

INTELLOFAX 8

"Corrective Labor Camps - MVD-
- USSR "

by

Office Memorandum

SECRET

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, ICS, OSO
FROM : Foreign Documents Branch

DATE: 15 February 1949

25X1 SUBJECT:

Pursuant to your verbal request there are forwarded herewith
~~the first 67~~ pages of translation of reference document.

all 98

J. J. BAGNALL
Acting Chief

25X1

Encl: 1
Atchd.

SECRET